NATION

Asked to slow down, Delhi cop killed by car driver

≫ Page: 4 ≪

BUSINESS

IPO: Swiggy and others to raise ₹60K cr

≫ Page: 7 ≪

SPORTS

Sri Lanka crush NZ to clinch historic series win

≫ Page: 8 ≪

www.twitter.com/EnglishSalar
www.facebook.com/EnglishSalar
www.instagram.com/dailysalarenglish
youtube.com/@dailysalardigital

SALAR
DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in | www.magzter.com | 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 | MONDAY | BENGALURU | 26 RABI'L, 1446 AH | Vol 4 | Issue No 247 | Pages: 8

WE ARE HIRING

REPORTERS
WEB-EDITOR
SUB-EDITOR

Journalism degree preferred but not essential.

Reporter: 5-6 years experience.

Web-editor: 2-4 years experience.

Sub editors freshers welcome.

SEND YOUR CV TO:

hr.salarnews@gmail.com
anushreeirwin@gmail.com

Campaigning ends in J&K; stakes high for BJP

The final phase of polls covering 40 Assembly segments across seven dists will be held on 1 Oct

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, 29 SEPT

The intense campaigning for the third and final phase of polling in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election concluded on Sunday evening, with major political parties, particularly the BJP, Congress, NC and PDP, engaging in fierce exchanges over critical issues, including Pakistan, Article 370, terrorism and reservation.

Voting for this crucial phase, covering 40 Assembly segments across seven districts -- Jammu, Udhampur, Samba and Kathua in the Jammu region and Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara in north Kashmir -- is scheduled for 1 October. The electoral fate of 415 candidates, including former deputy chief ministers Tara Chand (Congress) and Muzaffar Beig, are at stake in this phase. The voter turnout was robust in the earlier phases, with 61.38 per cent participation recorded in the first phase on 18 September and 57.31 per cent in the second phase on 26 September.

This is the first Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019, with the results set to be announced on 8 October.

Union Minister and BJP's election in-charge for J&K Assembly polls G Kishan Reddy with newly joined party leaders during a programme, in Jammu, on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spearheaded BJP campaign, emphasising the party's initiatives over the last 10 years to address what he described as "decades of injustice and historic discrimination".

BJP achieved its best poll performance in Jammu and Kashmir in the 2014 Assembly election, winning 18 seats from the four Jammu districts and securing a total of 25 seats. Historically, the saffron party has never won any Assembly seat in the Kashmir valley.

Senior BJP leaders, including Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh actively campaigned, accusing the Congress, National Conference (NC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) of pursuing a "Pakistani agenda" and fostering terrorism -- a claim vehemently denied by these parties. Congress leaders, including party President Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, also campaigned promising to restore statehood in Jammu and Kashmir and provide a "people-friendly" government in a coalition with the NC. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

1 terrorist killed in J&K's Kathua; op underway

JAMMU, 29 SEPT

A terrorist was killed in an ongoing operation in a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Sunday, taking the death toll in the incident to two, officials said.

The body of the terrorist was recovered from the scene of the encounter at Kog-Mandli in Billawar tehsil this afternoon, the officials said.

A massive search operation is underway in the village for the second day.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Anand Jain said the search operation was launched in the village on Saturday following information about the presence of three to four foreign terrorists. A policeman was killed and two officers injured Saturday evening when terrorists opened fire on a joint security search party in the village. Talking to reporters near the scene of the encounter, Jain said an information was received about the presence of terrorists in the area and subsequently an operation was launched, leading to an exchange of fire.

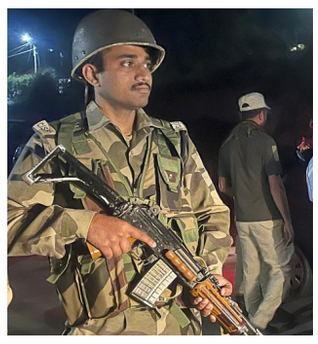


PHOTO: PTI

The whole area is under tight security cordon, he said.

He also added that the presence of terrorists was reported in a house and subsequently an operation was launched which is underway. —*PTI*

148 killed in floods, landslides in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 29 SEPT

The death toll from rain-triggered floodings and landslides across Nepal climbed to 148 on Sunday, police said. Large swathes of eastern and central Nepal have been inundated since Friday, with flash floods reported in parts of the country. According to the Armed Police Force sources, 64 people are missing in floods, landslides and inundation, while 61 people have been injured. The Kathmandu Valley reported the highest number of deaths. At least 322 houses and 16 bridges were damaged. The security personnel have rescued 3,626 people, the Armed Police Force sources said. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 6

'Mann Ki Baat' will soon complete 10 years: PM

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

With 'Mann Ki Baat' set to complete 10 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said contrary to the belief that only spicy conversations receive attention, the monthly radio broadcast has proven that people like positive stories. He said the programme has become a platform that celebrates the spirit of India. "This episode today is going to make me emotional. It's flooding me with a lot of old memories...The reason is that this journey of ours in 'Mann Ki Baat' is completing 10 years. 10 years ago 'Mann Ki Baat' started on the day of Vijayadashami on 3 October," Modi said. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

Kolkaka CP visits RG Kar before SC hearing

KOLKATA, 29 SEPT

Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Verma on Sunday visited R G Kar Medical College and Hospital here, a day before the Supreme Court is to hear the rape-murder case of a post-graduate trainee doctor of the health facility. Sources said that Verma took stock of the security system at the hospital Junior doctors, who resumed work after more than a month-long agitation seeking justice for their murdered colleague, said that they would decide on resuming total 'cease work' after observing the state government's submission on their safety and security at workplaces. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

79TH UN ASSEMBLY

Russia backs India's UNSC bid after UK, US, France

MOSCOW, 29 SEPT

Russian Foreign Minister **Sergey Lavrov** has expressed Russia's support for India and Brazil's bid for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The support comes on the heels of similar endorsements from the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Bhutan, Portugal, and Chile.

In his address at the 79th United Nations General Assembly, he stressed that a "fairer world order" requires the expansion of the representation of the Global South in the UNSC.

Lavrov stated, "We are not stepping away from dialogue with the West. In July, upon the proposal of Russia, there was an open debate in the Security Council on the subject of building a more just, more sustainable world order. We believe it is important to begin the discussion that has begun in the UN as well as in other platforms. A fairer world order undoubtedly requires the expansion of the representation of the Global South in the UN Security Council."

PHOTO: ANI

- India has long sought a permanent seat in the Security Council to better represent the interests of the developing world.On Friday, Bhutan voiced support for India's bid for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council

"We support our position in favour of the candidacies of Brazil and India, while at the same time taking a positive decision on the well-known initiatives of the African Union. However, of course, we cannot even talk about any additional seats for Western countries, who are already excessively over-represented within the Security Council," he added. India has long sought a permanent seat in the Security Council to better represent the interests of the developing world.

On Friday, Bhutan voiced support for India's bid for a permanent seat on the UNSC. —*PTI*

After Nasrallah, Israel kills another Hezbollah leader

JERUSALEM, 29 SEPT

The Israeli military said on Sunday it has killed another high-ranking Hezbollah official in an airstrike as the Lebanese militant group was reeling from a string of devastating blows and the killing of its overall leader, Hassan Nasrallah.

The military said **Nabil Kaouk**, the deputy head of Hezbollah's Central Council, was killed on Saturday. Hezbollah confirmed his death, making him the seventh senior Hezbollah leader slain in Israeli strikes in a little over a week. They include founding members who had evaded death or detention for decades.

The Israeli military said it carried out another targeted strike on Beirut later on Sunday, with details to follow.

Hezbollah had earlier confirmed that Ali Karaki, another senior commander, died in Friday's strike that killed Nasrallah. The Israeli military said earlier that Karaki was killed in the airstrike, which targeted an underground compound in Beirut where Nasrallah and other senior Hezbollah figures were meeting.

PHOTO: X

Israel says at least 20 other Hezbollah militants were killed in the strike, including two close associates of Nasrallah, one of whom was in charge of his security detail.

Wreckage from the strike was still smoldering more than two days later. On Sunday, Associated Press journalists saw smoke over the rubble as people flocked to the site, some to check on what's left of their homes and others to pay respects, pray or simply to see the destruction. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 6

Anti-Israel protests in Kashmir

Srinagar, 29 Sept

Anti-Israel protests continued for the second day on Sunday in several areas of Kashmir against the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Lebanon. A large number of men, women and children -- carrying black flags -- poured out on roads in Magam in Budgam and Zadibal in the city to protest against the killing, officials said. Protests were held in several parts of Srinagar on Saturday as well. —*PTI*

Senthil, others take oath as ministers in Stalin cabinet

CHENNAI, 29 SEPT

High-profile DMK leader V Senthil Balaji, who was days ago granted bail by the Supreme Court in a money laundering case, was sworn in as Minister by Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi here on Sunday.

Notably, 48-year-old Senthil Balaji has been assigned the same key portfolio of 'electricity, non-conventional energy development, prohibition & excise,' which he held previously in the Stalin cabinet.

Three other DMK legislators, Govi Chezhiaan (Thiruvidaimarudur), R Rajendran (Salem-North) and S M Nasar (Avadi) also took oath of office and secrecy administered by Governor Ravi in a simple ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan.

They were sworn-in in the presence of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and his son Udhayanidhi, who had already been designated as Deputy Chief Minister.

Govi Cheziaan has been allotted Higher Education including technical education, electronics, science and technology, which was previously held by K Ponmudy (now Minister for Forests).

V Senthil Balaji **PHOTO: PTI**

- Senthil has been assigned the same key portfolio of electricity, non-conventional energy development, prohibition & excise.

Soft-spoken Cheziaan, 58, a native of Thanjavur district, is an orator, party office-bearer and chief government whip, before he was appointed minister. A three-time MLA, he was first elected in 2011. Rajendran has been allotted the Tourism portfolio. Also, known as Salem Rajendran, he is a party worker since his student days and has held various party positions.He is a lawyer and a third time MLA. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

FOR SIMULTANEOUS POLLS

Govt mulls three bills to implement '1 nation, 1 election'

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

The government is likely to bring three bills, including two to amend the Constitution, to put in place its plan to hold simultaneous elections.

One of the proposed Constitution amendment bills, that deals with aligning the local bodies elections to that of the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies, will require an endorsement from at least 50 per cent of the States.

The government earlier accepted the recommendations of the high-level committee for holding simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and local bodies in a phased manner after a countrywide consensus-building exercise. Citing recommendations of the high-level committee, the proposed bill would seek to amend Article 82A by adding sub-clause (1) relating to the 'appointed date'. It will also seek to insert sub-clause (2) to Article 82A relating to the end of terms of the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies together.

The government earlier agreed to hold simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and local bodies in a phased manner **PHOTO: PTI**

Constitutionally, the Election Commission (EC) and State Election Commissions (SECs) are separate bodies. The EC holds elections to the post of the President, the Vice President, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, state assemblies and State legislative councils while SECs are mandated to conduct polls to local bodies . The third bill will be an ordinary one to amend provisions in three laws dealing with Union territories having legislative Assemblies -- Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir -- to align the terms of these Houses with other legislative Assemblies and Lok Sabha as proposed in the first constitutional amendment bill. —*PTI*

AAP MOVES SC AGAINST MCD ELECTIONS

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

Aam Aadmi Party has approached the Supreme Court challenging the election held for a member of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's standing committee.

The move came after Delhi Chief Minister Atishi accused the BJP of "murdering" democracy and claimed that the election held on 27 September was "illegal and unconstitutional".

BJP won the last vacant seat of MCD's 18-member standing committee unopposed as the councillors of the ruling AAP abstained from voting.

BJP recently moved the apex court seeking an urgent hearing on its plea to initiate contempt proceedings against Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi over the election to fill the vacancy in the MCD's standing committee. According to rules, only mayor can decide the date and place for the election of the MCD standing committee members and only the mayor can preside over a meeting of the MCD councillors for the election, the chief minister had said. —*PTI*

Mysuru police raid late-night party, detain 56 people

MYSURU, 29 SEPT

Mysuru district police raided a party organised at a private land in Yedehalli village under Yelwal police limits at 1am on Sunday, detained 49 men and 7 women and seized 17 bikes, 25 cars, a tempo and an auto from the spot. Amid rain, a team of police led by SP N Vishnuvardhana, ASP Nagesh and DYSP Karim Ravthar carried out a raid based on information they had received from the locals. However, police did not find any usage of drugs by the participants of the party. The blood samples of the participants have been collected and sent to the laboratory for testing. Police said 50 people had registered for the party. "We are waiting for the medical test reports to initiate further action upon them," Vishnuvardhan said.
—Salar News

PHOTO: PTI

Hospet-Hubballi railway track to be made four-line

BENGALURU, 29 SEPT

South Western Railway will convert the double-line track between Hospet and Hubballi to four lines at a cost of Rs. 29.04 crore. The tendering has been finalised and construction will start shortly, Koppal MP K Rajashekar Basavaraj Hitnal said. Over the past three years, more than 500 accidents have occurred on National Highway 30, which passes through the villages of Huligi, Shahapura, Hosalli, and Metgal, resulting in 234 fatalities. The elevated railway project will be a critical step toward addressing this alarming situation and improving overall safety, MP Hitnal said during a ceremony following Bhumi Pooja for a Rs 105-crore National Highway 50 project near Hosalingapur Cross in Koppal district. Local officials, including Municipal Council President Ammad Patel, attended the event.
—Salar News

IAF helicopter makes emergency landing in Kolar

KOLAR, 29 SEPT

An Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter made an emergency landing at DK Halli in Bangarpet taluk of Kolar district on Sunday afternoon due to a technical glitch. The chopper with a trainee woman pilot was on a practice trip between Chennai and Bengaluru when a technical snag was noticed and it was safely landed on a tank bund. A police team reached the spot and secured the area, according to Bangarpet tahsildar Venkatesh S. KGF SP KM Shantharaju visited the spot and spoke to the crew of the helicopter. A team of 10 experts from Chennai will be arriving to set right the problem in the chopper.*—Salar News*

ADGP probing mining lease case is blackmailer: HDK

Union Minister trying to create fear in SIT: Chandrasekhar

BENGALURU, 29 SEPT

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday called ADGP of Lokayukta, M Chandrasekhar, who heads the SIT probing the 2007 mining lease case, as a "blackmailer" and "criminal".

"He (Chandrasekhar) has addressed a letter to his colleagues. I know who prepared that letter and where. I will reveal it in due course of time," Kumaraswamy said here. In the letter, referred to by Kumaraswamy, Chandrasekhar wrote, "Today an accused in Crime No. 16/14 of SIT, HD Kumaraswamy, in a press conference made false and malicious allegations and threats." "As you know the SIT had sought the prosecution sanction of the accused from the competent authority. This accused, who is on bail, HD Kumaraswamy, has done this to deter us from discharging our duties. It appears that his objective is to create fear in the minds of officers of SIT by attacking me."

HD Kumaraswamy, during his tenure as CM from 2006 to 2008, 'illegally' approved a 550-acre mining lease in Ballari in violation of law **PHOTO: PTI**

"But an ACCUSED, however high and mighty he may be, is an ACCUSED. Let us not get demotivated by such allegations and threats. I as the head of SIT promise you that I will work without fear or favour and bring to justice all criminals and accused in our cases."

The illegal mining case pertains to allegations that Kumaraswamy, during his tenure as CM from 2006 to 2008, illegally approved a 550-acre mining lease to Sri Sai Venkateswara Minerals (SSVM) in Ballari district in violation of law.

Addressing a press conference at JD(S) State office here, Kumaraswamy presented documents supporting his allegations, stating that Chandrashekhar had leaked a confidential letter written by Governor to Lokayukta to a private news channel. Kumaraswamy cited several complaints and charges against the officer, including his links with Vijay Tata. Chandrashekhar and Tata, who ran a media organisation, extorted individuals. Kumaraswamy accused the officer of constructing a 38-floor commercial building under his wife's name on encroached land and of illegally occupying a nearby lake.

CM Siddaramaiah preferred not to comment on the tussle between Kumaraswamy and the IPS officer.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar criticised Kumaraswamy for his comments on Chandrashekar. "Kumaraswamy doesn't know what he is saying. What is the connection between KPCC office and Chandrashekar and the allegations made by Kumaraswamy are baseless."
—Salar News with Agencies

'EXTORTION'

Priyank demands FM's resignation in electoral bond case

BENGALURU, 29 SEPT

Priyank Kharge **PHOTO: PTI**

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge on Sunday demanded the resignation of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman after a case was registered against her in Bengaluru, following a court direction for allegedly extorting money through now scrapped electoral bonds.

He alleged that companies which incurred huge losses have made significant donations to BJP through the Electoral Bond scheme and the court found valid grounds to direct the police to register an FIR against Sitharaman and others.

"If you have morality, then drive out former BJP Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and his son BY Vijayendra who is the BJP State President. Expel Sitharaman, (leader of opposition in the Karnataka assembly) R Ashoka and BJP MLA Munirathna," Kharge said in a press conference.

Vijayendra, party leader Nalin Kumar Kateel have also been named in the FIR.

The Supreme Court too had called the Electoral Bond scheme as unconstitutional, he said.

According to Kharge, 33 companies running at a loss of Rs one lakh crore have donated Rs 576.2 crore to the BJP.

Further, six companies which have shown a positive net profit have donated Rs 646 crore to the saffron party, which is more than their aggregate net profit.

Three companies, which had positive net profit but reported negative direct taxes, have donated Rs 193.8 crore to BJP, he claimed. *—PTI*

Mahisha Dasara celebrated peacefully in Mysuru

MYSURU, 29 SEPT

Amid prohibitory orders, Mahisha Dasara celebration was concluded peacefully at Town Hall in Mysuru on Sunday where writers and progressive thinkers offered floral tributes to a bronze mini idol of the demon king and public meetings were also held.

Police had imposed prohibitory orders under Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita in Mysuru, including at Chamundi Hills and deployed personnel across the City. Besides, police neither allowed Mahisha Mandalothsava celebration committee members to hold events near Mahishasura statue in the hills nor processions or public rallies in the city. After this, the organisers dropped the plan of offering floral tributes to the statue of Mahishasura atop the hills.

Addressing a gathering at Town Hall, Mahisha Mandalothsava celebration

PHOTO: PTI

committee convener and former city mayor Purushottam expressed his displeasure with district administration and police for not allowing them to celebrate atop Chamundi Hills despite them assuring to hold the event peacefully without any disturbance to social harmony. As the government did not allow them to offer floral tributes to their king, he said members of his committee would not allow the State government to inaugurate Naada Habba Dasara celebrations atop Chamundi Hills on 3 October. A procession carrying the portrait of erstwhile king Ashoka will also be taken out on 12 October, he said. *—Salar News*

Will implement caste census: CM

BENGALURU, 29 SEPT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said socio-economic and educational survey or caste census will be presented before State Cabinet for further action.

"Our government initiated the social census to uplift marginalised groups. While there have been delays in implementation, we are committed to implementing this initiative," Siddaramaiah said at an event hosted by Alumni Association of Hostels for Backward Classes in Mysuru.

Siddaramaiah said the caste census has been a core principle of Congress party.

"Since 1930, there has been no collection of caste-based data in the national population census. Now, discussions around conducting caste censuses are gaining traction in several states," he added.

The Chief Minister also announced a rise in scholarships for pre-matric students, from Rs 750 to Rs 1,750 over the past five years, with a further increase to Rs 1,850 planned for the 2024-25 academic year.

> **Our government initiated the social census to uplift marginalised groups. While there have been delays in implementation, we are committed to implementing this initiative**
>
> -Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

Outlining plans to establish a residential school in every hobli, Siddaramaiah said: "Currently, there are 822 Morarji Desai Residential Schools, with 20 more set to be built this year."

Siddaramaiah highlighted social reformer Dr BR Ambedkar's vision for equal opportunities for backward classes, Dalits and minorities, pointing out that the current inequality stems from a lack of such opportunities.

Siddaramaiah urged those who have benefited from government programmes, particularly former hostel students, to give back to their communities. Reflecting on historical reforms, Siddaramaiah recalled the establishment of student hostels in 1977, which have been vital for the education of backward-class students.

"Currently, these hostels accommodate 1,87,000 students, ensuring that underprivileged children have access to education," he said.
—Salar News

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a programme of Backward Class Hostels' Alumni Association, in Mysuru on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

HAPPY HEARTS

A group of IT professionals and volunteers take part in a series of events, including walkathon and cycling, organised by Kaveri Hospital to mark World Heart Day, in Bengaluru on Sunday **PHOTO: SALAR**

Won't back down, conscience is clear: CM on MUDA 'scam'

MYSURU, 29 SEPT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said he will not "back down" in the wake of the allegations regarding the alleged MUDA scam and stated that his "conscience will not be shaken" as long as he has the support of the people.

Speaking at an event in Ashokapuram, part of the Krishnaraja constituency in Mysuru, Siddaramaiah said, "You might try to trouble me politically for a couple of months, but I will not back down. My conscience is clear, and as long as I have the people's support, I will not be shaken."

This comes after the Lokayukta Police filed an FIR against Siddaramaiah and others in connection with the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) land allotment 'scam'. The FIR has been filed by the Mysuru Lokayukta under sections of BNS, including 351, 420, 340, 09, and 120B among others.

> **You might try to trouble me politically for a couple of months, but I will not back down. My conscience is clear, and as long as I have the people's support, I will not be shaken**
>
> -Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

The FIR mentions CM Siddaramaiah, his wife, brother-in-law and others as accused in the case. It is alleged that MUDA illegally allotted 14 sites to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife in the prime location of Mysuru city.

As the allegations surfaced, BJP has come down guns blazing at the Congress party accusing it of supporting "corrupt" leaders and demanding Siddaramaiah's resignation.

Meanwhile, Siddaramaiah inaugurated important development projects during the event. He highlighted government's schemes supporting farmers, announcing the allocation of 0.5 guntas each to 245 betel leaf farmers. Additionally, commercial complexes would be constructed in Doddagaradi and Chikkagaradi. *—PTI*

Technical glitch halts Namma Metro services on Purple Line

BENGALURU, 29 SEPT

Metro services on the Purple Line were disrupted for over half an hour on Sunday morning, leaving commuters stranded during peak hours. According to the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), a technical fault at Whitefield (Kadugodi) Metro Station caused the suspension of services between Whitefield and ITPL (Pattandura Agrahara) from 8.25am to 8.55am.

During this period, short-loop train services were operated between Challaghatta and ITPL stations on the Purple Line to mitigate the inconvenience to passengers. BMRCL confirmed that full services were restored at 8.55am and metro traffic on the entire Purple Line returned to normal. However, services on the Green Line

PHOTO: X/@NAMMAMETRO

remained unaffected, running as per the regular schedule.

Preethi Nair, a resident of Rajarajeshwari Nagar, told Salar News, "I was on my way to Whitefield for an emergency and had no idea when the trains would start running again. It was frustrating to see no clear communication at the station. I had to get down four stops earlier and find another way to reach my destination."

> **My family and I were stuck at Whitefield for nearly 30 minutes. We had to find an alternate route to reach the nearest metro station where trains were still running.**
>
> -Manjunath R, a commuter

Another commuter, Manjunath R, a resident of Whitefield, said, "My family and I were stuck at Whitefield for nearly 30 minutes. We had to find an alternate route to reach the nearest metro station where trains were still running. Our family holiday was completely ruined because of this inconvenience. I hope BMRCL improves communication during such disruptions."

Meanwhile, BMRCL said commercial services on the extended Green Line will begin soon. *—Salar News*

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

BCCI launches cricket academy in City

BENGALURU, 29 SEPT

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Sunday inaugurated the new National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru. This world-class facility, the result of the vision of Jay Shah, the secretary of the organisation, to nurture the future of cricket, will now be called the BCCI Centre of Excellence.

Spanning over 40 acres, this facility is designed to become the epicentre for nurturing cricketing talent and advancing sports science in India. The Centre of Excellence features a total of three grounds and 86 pitches, including both indoor and outdoor areas, highlighting its capacity to provide comprehensive training facilities, as per a press release from BCCI.

At the heart of the Centre are three world-class cricket grounds. Ground A, the main

The Centre of Excellence features a total of three grounds and 86 pitches, including both indoor and outdoor areas **PHOTO: PTI**

ground, boasts an 85-yard boundary with 13 meticulously maintained Mumbai red soil pitches ready for play. Equipped with advanced floodlighting and state-of-the-art broadcasting facilities, it can host and telecast matches under lights. Grounds B and C serve as dedicated practice grounds with 75-yard boundaries, featuring 11 Mandya soil pitches and 9 Black Cotton soil pitches from Kalahandi, Odisha, respectively.

An innovative subsurface drainage system ensures quick recovery after rainfall, minimising disruptions and maintaining a consistent playing schedule.

The grounds are designed with white picket fencing and lush green seating mounds, reminiscent of English county grounds.

Comprehensive practice resources

A world-class indoor practice facility features eight pitches with premium turfs from the UK and Australia, alongside an 80m common run-up area. Large, toughened glass panels allow natural light, creating an inviting atmosphere.

Integrated cameras capture play for analytical purposes, ensuring athletes can train regardless of weather or time.

The South Pavilion, a G+2 structure spanning 45,000 sqft, includes one of the largest dressing rooms at nearly 3,000 sqft, complete with a jacuzzi, lounge, massage room, kit room, and restrooms.
—ANI

PHOTO: ANI

Dera chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim seeks 20-day parole

CHANDIGARH, 29 SEPT

Dera Sacha Sauda chief and rape convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh has sought a 20-day parole, a request which comes days ahead of 5 October Haryana Assembly polls. With the model code of conduct in place, the sect chief's application for parole was sent to the election department which has asked the jails department to specify the "emergent and compelling" reasons behind the request that justify the release of convicts on parole during polls, official sources said on Sunday. The Dera chief has sought to stay in Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh, during the parole period, if granted. In August this year, Singh was granted a 21-day furlough. Singh was sentenced in 2017 and is serving a 20-year sentence for raping two of his disciples. *—PTI*

Case against MLA Anvar for illegal phone tapping

KOTTAYAM 29 SEPT

A case has been registered against independent MLA PV Anvar, who raised serious charges against certain IPS officers and the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) in Kerala, for allegedly illegally tapping phone calls of senior officials of the State. The case against the Nilambur MLA was registered on Saturday at the Karukachal police station here after a complaint by a social activist Thomas K Peeliyanikkal. The case was registered under section 192 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) which deals with the act of provoking others with the intent to incite a riot. The FIR stated that Anvar illegally hacking into the telecommunication system and tapping phones of senior officials in the State, jeopardising the public safety and spreading misinformation. *—PTI*

Vikramaditya meets Kharge, agrees to ideology

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

Himachal Pradesh Minister Vikramaditya Singh has met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and assured him about being steadfast to the party's ideology and principles, sources said on Sunday. The meeting on Saturday evening came amid a row over Singh's recent remarks that it would be mandatory for street vendors to display their identity cards at their shops. The State government later clarified no such decision had been taken. Singh on Saturday said he has assuaged the Congress high command's concerns about ideology following his recent remarks on the street vendors issue and described as "misconception". *—PTI*

Jailed Amritpal's father to float party in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, 29 SEPT

Jailed radical preacher Amritpal Singh's father Tarsem Singh on Sunday said he is going to float a political party in Punjab for "the welfare of all". He made the announcement after offering prayers at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Amritpal Singh, the MP from the Khadoor Sahib parliamentary constituency in Punjab, is currently lodged in Assam's Dibrugarh Jail under the National Security Act. Tarsem Singh's announcement assumes significance in view of the upcoming Assembly bypolls in the four constituencies of Barnala, Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak and Hoshiarpur in Punjab. He said the party will be for the "welfare of all" and will follow the principle of "manas ki jaat sabhay eke pechanbo" (equality of mankind). Asked about the reason behind floating party, *—PTI*

Won't die until PM is removed, says Kharge

Kharge's 2nd rally cancelled after fainting

JASROTA, 29 SEPT

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge addresses a public meeting amid ongoing Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls, in Jasrota *PHOTO: PTI*

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge vowed to fight for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that he would remain active in politics until Prime Minister Narendra Modi is ousted from power.

Kharge's remarks came amid criticism of BJP-led government at the Centre for its handling of the Union territory, particularly regarding the delay of elections.

"We will fight to restore statehood. We are not going to leave it. I am 83 years old, I am not going to die so early. I will stay alive until PM Modi is removed from power. I will listen to you. I will fight for you," Kharge told a public rally here after he was provided medical assistance at the rally venue.

Congress chief earlier complained of dizziness while speaking and had to be provided medical help.

Later, Kharge's second rally at Udhampur was cancelled. He will return to Delhi.

At the Jasrota rally, Kharge continued, "I wanted to talk. But due to dizziness, I have sat down. Please pardon me. They (BJP) are trying to terrorise us.

Kharge condemned Modi's governance, claiming, "Modiji is shedding crocodile tears for the future of the youth."

He urged voters to support Thakur Balbir Singh, the Congress candidate from Jasrota seat which will vote on 1 October in the third and last phase of polls. *—PTI*

ASSEMBLY POLLS '24 J&K, HARYANA

RaGa's promises in HP came a cropper: Shah

Shah attacks Cong for making tall promises

CHANDIGARH, 29 SEPT

Union Home Minister Amit Shah during an election campaign ahead of Haryana Assembly polls, in Haryana's Badshahpur *PHOTO: PTI*

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday kept up the attack on the Congress in poll-bound Haryana, alleging Rahul Gandhi's election guarantees have come a cropper in states such as Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka where the grand old party is in power.

Addressing an election rally in Gurugram's Badshahpur, he said at the time of polls, the Congress makes tall promises.

But they are not able to fulfil their poll promises in Himachal, Karnataka and Telangana, Shah said, adding "Rahul Gandhi's guarantees have come a cropper".

On the other hand, the BJP does not make any promise which it cannot fulfil, the Union Home Minister.

"Rahul Baba and company cannot undertake development" and it is the double-engine government that will ensure Haryana's development, he said. "We will secure the country's border, we will protect reservation and never allow Article 370 to return."

From Indira Gandhi to Manmohan Singh, the Congress did not fulfil the demand of One Rank One Pension and it was the Narendra Modi government that gave One Rank One Pension in 2015, the Union Home Minister said.

Shah alleged that "Pakistan Zindabad" slogans were raised at Congress rallies, from Hathin to Thanesar and from Thanesar to Palwal. *—PTI*

JJP-ASP RELEASES HARYANA MANIFESTO

CHANDIGARH, 29 SEPT

Jannayak Janta Party-Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) alliance on Sunday released its poll manifesto for the Haryana assembly polls, promising to procure all grains at MSP, unemployment allowance of Rs 11,000 and old age pension of Rs 5,100 per month. Every grain of every crop grown in Haryana will be procured at MSP, JJP leader Dushyant Chautala told reporters in Sirsa while releasing the JJP-ASP manifesto for the October 5 polls. The alliance also promised Rs 25,000 per acre compensation for crop damage and said the 'Jannayak Fasal Suraksha Scheme' will be started for farmers, in which premium amount will be borne by the state government. Among other promises, unemployed youth will be given Rs 11,000 monthly unemployment allowance and old age pension will be given at the rate of Rs 5,100 per month. Only Rs 100 will be charged as a one-time fee for applying for all recruitments, as per the manifesto, which the two allies named as "Jansewa Patr". *—PTI*

MVA ALLIANCE TALKS IN 10 DAYS: SHARAD

BARAMATI, 29 SEPT

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Sunday said the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) will conclude its seat-sharing talks in 8 to 10 days for the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly polls and asserted the Opposition alliance has to strive to come to power in the State "at any cost". Targeting those who left his party, Pawar claimed not even a handful of them will win the State polls. Elections to the 288-member State Assembly are likely to be held in mid-November, the NCP (SP) chief said addressing his party workers in Pune's Baramati town. The MVA comprises the NCP (SP), Congress and the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT). The three MVA allies will be seeking views of the party workers on the "original aspirant" for a particular seat, he said. Pawar said political party leaders may take their own decision, but the workers are directly connected to the people. Due to the good performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, expectations are high from party workers, but all the allies need to be adjusted, Pawar said. *—PTI*

LJP TO CONTEST J'KHAND POLLS: PASWAN

RANCHI, 29 SEPT

Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president Chirag Paswan on Sunday said his party would contest Jharkhand Assembly polls and discussion was underway for all options including contesting the election in alliance or alone. Paswan's statement came a day after Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is also BJP's election co-incharge for Jharkhand polls, said the saffron party would contest the Assembly polls in alliance with AJSU Party and Janata Dal (United). LJP (Ram Vilas) is a part of the BJP-led NDA government in the Centre. Paswan will address a public meeting in Dhanbad on Sunday. LJP (Ram Vilas) had a strong mass base in Jharkhand, he said. "When I was born, Jharkhand was in a unified Bihar. This had been a workplace for my father. The party has developed a strong mass base in the State. In such a situation, it has been decided that the party will contest the upcoming assembly polls," he said. Elections to the 81-member in Jharkhand are due later this year. *—PTI*

Filmmaker to DyCM, Udhayanidhi's rise

CHENNAI, 29 SEPT

Udhayanidhi Stalin *PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA*

"I don't know whether I will win or lose...But I will fight sincerely till the very end," from Udhayanidhi Stalin's Tamil flick 'Manithan,' would help understand how he in politics too used such simple and effective messaging and the manner in which it contributed to jump start his political career path.

In the run up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, in order to target the BJP-led Centre, Udhayanidhi came up with his "29 paisa" campaign.

He repeatedly attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "29 paisa Modi" as the Centre returned only "29 paisa out of every one rupee paid as tax" to the Union government by the state and this helped the ruling DMK further strengthen its narrative against the BJP and its allies that the state suffered at the hands of the Saffron party-led dispensation.

In the 2021 Assembly polls, he was hugely successful with his 'single brick' campaign to send across a message to people that the Madurai AIIMS project of the BJP-led Centre remained a non-starter though it was announced in the 2015-16 Union Budget.

Naturally, being the son of Chief Minister MK Stalin and grandson of late DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi brought its own unique advantages for Udhayanidhi's growth within the party. After he took over as Minister, he launched several initiatives to encourage sportspersons and improve sports infrastructure and distribution of Kalaignar sports kit was one among them.

BJP slams DMK over elevation DyCM's post

BJP on Sunday hit out at the DMK over elevation of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin's son Udayanidhi as the state's deputy chief minister, alleging the party's sole focus is on corruption and the progress of the family of its leadership.

BJP's reaction came after DMK leader V Senthil Balaji, an accused in a money laundering case, was sworn-in as a minister and Udayanidhi Stalin, Tamil Nadu chief minister's son, was designated as deputy chief minister of state.

"With this, one thing is very clear that this party is of the family, for the family and by the family. They are a private limited paarivarik (family) company," BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said, reacting to the development. *—PTI*

AMID LADDU ROW

Supreme Court Chief Justice DY Chandrachud on Sunday offered prayers at Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple at Tirumala *PHOTO: ANI*

TMC MLA threatens to gherao docs

KOLKATA, 29 SEPT

Trinamool Congress MLA Humayun Kabir has courted controversy by threatening to gherao junior doctors of Murshidabad Medical College and Hospital in Berhampore.

Expressing his resentment over the "attitude of some junior doctors of Murshidabad Medical College and Hospital,, he said "I have come to know that an FIR has been lodged against me for my previous comments against junior doctors who were on cease work earlier this month. I am not scared." he told reporters on Saturday night.

While Kabir referred to the junior doctors of Murshidabad Medical College and Hospital, he made the comments in the backdrop of proposed 'cease work' called by junior doctors from 30 September afternoon giving the authorities time to show demonstrative response to their demands for safety at hospitals and police action to thwart attackers.

Meanwhile, the protesting nurses at State-run hospitals in Odisha called off their four-day-long strike after they got assurance from Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling that their 10-point demand would be "fulfilled". PTI

Meanwhile, Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Verma on Sunday visited R G Kar Medical College and Hospital here, a day before the Supreme Court is to hear the rape-murder case of a post-graduate trainee doctor of. *—PTI*

Prakash Karat *PHOTO: ANI*

KARAT TO BE COORDINATOR OF CPI(M)'S BUREAU

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

Senior CPI(M) leader Prakash Karat will be the coordinator of the party's Polit Bureau and the Central Committee as an interim arrangement until the 24th Party Congress to be held in April next year, the Left party said on Sunday.

The decision comes in the wake of the death of CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury on September 12 at the age of 72.

"The Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), now in session in New Delhi, has decided that Comrade Prakash Karat will be the coordinator of the Polit Bureau and the Central Committee, as an interim arrangement until the 24th Party Congress to be held in April 2025 at Madurai," the CPI(M) said.

"This decision was taken due to the sad and sudden demise of the sitting General Secretary of the CPI(M), Comrade Sitaram Yechury." .

Karat, one of the seniormost leaders of the CPI(M), was its general secretary from 2005 to 2015. *—PTI*

10 YEARS OF COMPLETION

Modi: 'Mann Ki Baat' shows people like positive stories, inspiring examples

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

- In the programme, he highlighted the success of the 'Swachh Bharat' mission, lauding it as a great tribute to Mahatma Gandhi who put special emphasis on cleanliness all his life

Narendra Modi *PHOTO: ANI*

With 'Mann Ki Baat' set to complete 10 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said contrary to the belief that only spicy or negative conversations receive much attention, the monthly radio broadcast has proven that people like positive stories and inspiring examples.

He described it as an "emotional" episode and said the programme has become a unique platform that celebrates the spirit of India.

"This episode today is going to make me emotional. It's flooding me with a lot of old memories...The reason is that this journey of ours in 'Mann Ki Baat' is completing 10 years. 10 years ago 'Mann Ki Baat' started on the day of Vijayadashami on October 3," Modi said.

"And what a divine coincidence it is that this year on the 3rd of October when 10 years of 'Mann Ki Baat' are completed, it will be the first day of Navratri. There are many phases in this long journey of 'Mann Ki Baat' that I can never forget. Crores of listeners of 'Mann Ki Baat' have been our companions in this journey, whose continuous support I have kept receiving. They provided information from every corner of country," Touching upon his US visit, the prime minister said he is getting a lot of messages about a particular aspect of the visit and once again, there is a lot of discussion about the return of our ancient artifacts.

In the programme, he highlighted the success of the 'Swachh Bharat' mission, lauding it as a great tribute to Mahatma Gandhi who put special emphasis on cleanliness all his life. *—PTI*

'Would've given more money to Pak if it kept better ties'

SRINAGAR, 29 SEPT

Rajnath Singh *PHOTO: PTI*

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said India would have given a larger bailout package to Pakistan than sought by Islamabad from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had the neighbouring nation maintained friendly relations with New Delhi.

Addressing an election rally in Gurez Assembly segment of Bandipora district, Singh referred to the prime minister's development package for Jammu and Kashmir announced in 2014-15 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Singh referred to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's famous statement that "we can change friends but we cannot change the neighbours".

Singh said the Centre gives money to Jammu and Kashmir for development while Pakistan has been misusing financial aid for a long time.

The Defence Minister said Kashmir will again become a paradise on earth when Vajpayee's dream of restoring "Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat and Kashmiriyat" in the valley is achieved. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

5 cops injured as Naxalites' IED explodes in Bijapur

BIJAPUR, 29 SEPT

Five security personnel were injured when a pressure improvised explosive device (IED) planted by Naxalites exploded in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Sunday, police said. The incident occurred in Tarrem police station area when a team of security personnel was out on a demining exercise from Chinngelur CRPF camp in the area, a police official said. During the demining exercise, carried out to trace IEDs and dispose them, security personnel spotted a wire connected to the pressure IED. When they were searching the bomb connected to the wire, it exploded. *—PTI*

Youtubers booked for defaming Malayalam director

KOCHI, 29 SEPT

A case has been registered against some YouTube channels for allegedly airing objectionable videos and statements about well-known actor-filmmaker Balachandra Menon. The case was registered based on a complaint lodged by Menon with the city police commissioner here on Saturday. The accused YouTube channels had reportedly aired the interview of an actress who had allegedly made some insulting remarks against the "April 18" actor-director. As per the FIR, the videos were deliberately propagated by the accused on September 27 with an intension to defame Menon and intimidate him. Multiple FIRs have been registered against several high-profile Malayalam film personalities following allegations of sexual harassment against. *—PTI*

Medico ends life by self-injecting poison in Prayagraj

PRAYAGRAJ, 29 SEPT

A 28-year-old Master of Surgery student of the government-run Moti Lal Nehru Medical College here allegedly ended his life in his car at a hospital associated with the college, police said on Sunday. DCP (city) Abhishek Bharti said that on Saturday night, doctors of SRN Hospital informed the police that Dr Kartikeya Srivastava, 28, working in the same hospital, had committed suicide. A resident of Kotdwar in Uttarakhand, Dr Kartikeya Srivastava took the extreme step by allegedly injecting himself with a poisonous substance, ACP Kotwali Manoj Kumar Singh said. The field unit, dog squad and surveillance team have been called to the spot and evidence is being collected, the DCP said. *—PTI*

Gujarat: 7 dead as bus jumps divider to save cattle

DWARKA, 29 SEPT

At least seven people were killed and 14 others were injured after a bus jumped the road divider and hit three vehicles near Dwarka in Gujarat, police said on Saturday evening. The deceased have been identified as Hetalben Arjunbhai Thakor, Priyanshi Maheshbhai Thakor, Tanya Arjunbhai Thakor, Himanshu Kishanbhai Thakor, and Virendra Kishanbhai Thakor from Gandhinagar, and Chirag Bhai from Baradia. One unidentified passenger aboard the bus also died, the police said. According to the police, the incident occurred when the bus tried to save the cattle on the road but jumped the divider and hit two cars and a bike. The police said that the accident took place at around 7.45 pm on Saturday on the Dwarka-Khambaliya National Highway near the Dwarka district of Gujarat. The injured were rushed to a hospital in Khambhalia town and are currently treated there, they added. *—ANI*

Asked to slow down, Delhi cop killed by car driver

Constable was dragged for 10mts before hitting another car

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

A car driver allegedly hit a motorcycle-borne constable after being admonished by him for rash driving in outer Delhi early on Sunday and dragged the policeman for about 10 metres, leading to his death, officials said.

The incident occurred around 2.15 am near Veena Enclave when 30-year-old Sandeep was going towards Railway Road from Nangloi Police station during duty hours dressed in civilian clothes, they said.

Upon noticing a car being driven recklessly, Sandeep told the driver not to do so, the Delhi Police said in a statement.

Suddenly, the vehicle increased its speed and hit the constable's motorcycle from behind and dragged him for about 10 metres before hitting another car, it said.

Sandeep was immediately taken to Sonia Hospital and later shifted to Balaji Hospital in Paschim Vihar where he was declared dead.

According to the statement, CCTV footage have shown that Sandeep took a left turn in the street and indicated the vehicle to slow down.

"On this, the vehicle suddenly accelerated and hit his motorcycle and dragged him along with his bike. The vehicle halted after hitting a parked car. Sandeep received head injuries that led to death," read the statement.

Police said a case under Section 103 (murder) of BNS is registered and an investigation has been taken up. *—PTI*

A damaged car that was involved in an accident that killed the constable (inset) outside Nangloi police station, in New Delhi, on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

Delhi in panic due to firing incidents: AAP's Bharadwaj

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

AAP Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Sunday claimed that there is an atmosphere of panic in Delhi, questioning the role and priorities of Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena amidst rising law and order concerns.

"There is an atmosphere of panic in Delhi today. I can say with full responsibility that such a situation has never existed in my Delhi before," Bharadwaj added, underscoring the growing concerns about public safety in the capital.

Referring to a recent shooting inside a showroom in Narayana, Bharadwaj questioned, "When will the LG visit Narayana, where bullets were fired inside a showroom? The statement from the minister comes amid a surge in crime in the city. *—PTI*

Law and order in Delhi has collapsed. There is a complete Jungle Raj. People are scared in the national capital of the country. Delhi's law and order comes under Amit Shah. He will have to take effective steps immediately.

- Arvind Kejriwal, AAP supremo

'CASE TO BE SOLVED SOON'

UP derailment attempt: RPF forms special team

BALLIA, 29 SEPT

A day after the engine of a train hit a stone placed on the railway track in the Bairia area here, the RPF has formed a special team to solve the case, and patrolling is being done on the rail route, an official said.

Circle Officer (Bairia) Mohammad Usman said that it is to be investigated if the incident is a conspiracy or mischief.

Railway Protection Force Commandant S Ramakrishnan on Sunday told PTI that it appears that some mischievous elements have placed stones on the railway track. A special team has been formed to solve this case. Along with this, patrolling is being done on the rail route. RPF and the local police are working together.

He added that this case will be solved soon.

Meanwhile, Circle Officer (Bairia) Mohammad Usman, after visiting the spot, told PTI that after getting information about the incident, the RPF Assistant Commandant along with police officials inspected the spot.

PHOTO: PTI

Meanwhile, in another incident on Saturday, a 16-year-old boy has been apprehended for allegedly putting a fencing pillar on the Banda-Mahoba rail track, causing disruptions, police said.

The driver of the passenger train had to apply emergency brakes to stop the train after he noticed a concrete pillar on the tracks, police said.

On 22 September, two people were arrested in connection with the alleged derailment bid of the Naini Jan Shatabdi Express by placing a six-metre-long iron pole on track between the Bilaspur Road and Rudrapur City railway stations on 18 September in Rampur, police said. *—PTI*

IN BIHAR

Flood alert after water from barrage discharged

Water enters a government hospital after heavy rains, in Gopalganj, Bihar, on Saturday **PHOTO: PTI**

PATNA, 29 SEPT

- A total of 6.61 lakh cusecs of water was released from Birpur barrage on Kosi river on Saturday

Bihar government has sounded an alert for flood in northern and central parts of the state following heavy discharge of water from Birpur barrage on Sunday, officials said.

A total of 6.61 lakh cusecs of water was released from Birpur barrage on Kosi river till 5 am, the highest in 56 years. According to the latest bulletin by the state Water Resources department, the last time the maximum water discharged from this barrage was 7.88 lakh cusecs of water in 1968.

The development may aggravate the condition of over 16.28 lakh people in 13 districts, who were already affected by inundation following heavy rain.

Similarly, 5.38 lakh cusecs of water was released from Valmikinagar barrage on Gandak till 7 pm on Saturday. This is the highest water discharged from this barrage after 6.39 lakh cusecs released in 2003. Traffic movement has been stopped near the Kosi barrage as a preventive measure.

Authorities from Nepal released 5.40 lakh cusecs of water in Gandak barrage from their side till 7 pm on Saturday and 4.99 lakh cusecs of water in Kosi barrage, he added.

Following the heavy discharge of water from these two barrages, the excess river water entered low-lying areas of West and East Champaran, Gopalganj, Araria, Supaul, Katihar, Purnea and several other districts, officials said. An alert has already been sounded for several districts of Bihar as the IMD predicted heavy rain and warned of flash flood risk in parts of the state. *—PTI*

IT employee dies of cardiac arrest in Nagpur office

NAGPUR, 29 SEPT

A 40-year-old employee of a leading Information Technology company died of cardiac arrest in the washroom of the firm's office in Maharashtra's Nagpur city, officials said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Friday, they said.

The deceased has been identified as Nitin Edwin Michael, a senior analyst with the HCL Technologies, according to police.

At around 7 pm on Friday, the man was found unresponsive after he entered the washroom of the company's office in Mihan area, an official from Sonegaon police station said.

His colleagues rushed him to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Nagpur where doctors pronounced him dead upon arrival, he said.

The Sonegaon police sent the body for postmortem and registered a case of accidental death. *—PTI*

Assam holds recruitment exam amidst internet suspension

GUWAHATI, 29 SEPT

Written examinations for recruitment to Grade III posts of Assam government are being conducted across the state on Sunday amidst elaborate arrangements and an eight-hour mobile internet service suspension.

A total of 7,34,080 candidates are eligible to appear for the second phase of Assam Direct Recruitment Examinations (ADRE), being held for bachelor degree level and HSLC level posts, official sources said.

It is for the second time in September that mobile internet services have been suspended in the state to prevent malpractices during the written examination for recruitment test to Grade III posts.

The suspension of mobile internet/ mobile data/ mobile wi-fi connectivity is in place from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm, an official release said.

Mobile internet services were suspended for three-and-a-half hours on 15 September when the first phase of the written examination for Grade III posts was conducted.

The written tests for the second phase of ADRE Grade III posts are being held in two halves. The first half is from 9 am to 12 noon, and the second from 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm.

About 18.50 lakh candidates had applied for the various classes of Grade III posts, while about 13.70 lakh candidates have applied for different Grade IV posts, official sources had said. *—PTI*

Candidates undergo security check as they arrive to appear for Assam Direct Recruitment Examination Grade 3 exam **PHOTO: PTI**

Three youths from Manipur go missing, 1 rescued

IMPHAL, 29 SEPT

One of the three youths who went missing two days ago while on their way to a recruitment test for central forces at New Keithelmanbi in Manipur's Imphal West has been rescued, security personnel said on Sunday.

N Johnson Singh is safe and has been handed over to the police by the army, while efforts continue to locate the other two missing youths - Th Thoithoiba Singh and O Thoithoi Singh.

PHOTO: PTI

The three, all from Thoubal district, were on way to sit for the SSC GD recruitment test but took a wrong turn, ending up in Kuki.

On Sunday, a viral video surfaced featuring the two missing youths appealing to Chief Minister N Biren Singh for their release.

In response, CM Singh said he held a meeting with both ruling and opposition legislators to discuss the situation, particularly the rescue of the youths held by militants.

Additionally, a public meeting was held on Saturday concerning the incident, during which Joint Action Committee (JAC) was formed. *—PTI*

NEW SOP IN FOCUS

Mental health certificates must for transgenders opting for gender surgery

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

Transgenders who want to go for pre-hormonal therapy or gender assignment surgery need to be assessed and certified by mental health professionals, according to the Union Health Ministry's standard operating procedures for the purpose.

As for gynaecologists, the 'SoP for Medical Treatment of Transgender Persons' states that they should enquire as to how the patient wishes to be addressed in terms of name and pronoun, and also ensure that the words they use uphold the principles of safety, dignity and respect.

According to SOP, "Before endocrinology treatment, a certificate from one psychiatrist is required. Before Gender Affirmation Surgery, two certificates are required -- one by a psychiatrist and one by a clinical psychologist/psychiatrist." Apart from that, a mental health professional would also assess for distress and co-morbid mental and/or substance use disorders and provide management of the same, the document stated.

Primary care providers should take a comprehensive sexual history, including a discussion on Sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening, HIV PrEP and PEP, behavioural health, and social determinants of sexual health.

Options for fertility preservation, pregnancy potential and contraception options should also be discussed, if indicated, the document said.

As for the Fertility Preservation in Transgenders (Female to Male), the SoP states that the established method for fertility preservation includes cryopreservation of embryos and oocytes for females. Gender affirmation surgery has an important role in the treatment of gender incongruence. Various surgical options are available to transgender individuals, which include facial reconstructive surgery, vocal surgery, chest or 'top' surgery, and genital or 'bottom' surgery, the SoP said. *—PTI*

Primary care providers should take a comprehensive sexual history, including a discussion on Sexually transmitted infection **PHOTO: FREEPIK**

- Before endocrinology treatment, a certificate from one psychiatrist is required. Before Gender Affirmation Surgery, two certificates are required one by a psychiatrist and one by a clinical psychologist/ psychiatrist

Death toll rises to 9 in MP bus accident

People at the spot after a collision between a bus and a truck, in Maihar district, Madhya Pradesh **PHOTO: PTI**

MAIHAR, 29 SEPT

The death toll in the accident of a private bus in Madhya Pradesh's Maihar district has gone up to nine as three more persons succumbed to their injuries, police said on Sunday.

Nearly 20 people was also injured after the bus rammed into a stationary stone-laden truck in Maihar at around 11 pm on Saturday, they said.

The accident took place on National Highway no. 30, about 25 km from the district headquarters, as per police.

The bus was heading for Nagpur via Rewa after starting from Prayagraj when it crashed near the Nadan Dehat police station, Maihar Superintendent of Police (SP) Sudhir Agrawal told PTI.

While six fatalities were reported earlier, three more persons succumbed to injuries in a hospital, taking the death toll to nine, he said.

Rescue teams had to use a gas cutter and an excavator machine to make way through the wrecked bus to pull out the passengers, he said.

The rescue operation was wrapped up at around 2 am on Sunday, according to police. *—PTI*

SAY NO TO VIOLENCE

People take part in a protest over the alleged violence against minorities in Bangladesh, in Agartala, on Sunday
PHOTO: PTI

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER NASRALLAH'S KILLING?

Israel's assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah is a monumental and hugely demoralising blow to the group he led for 32 years, marking a significant inflection point for Lebanon and the region.

Hezbollah's announcement of his death Friday triggered tears and celebrations across the Arab world, pointing to the widespread reach and influence of a divisive man who has been at the forefront of Middle Eastern politics for decades.

The 64-year-old Nasrallah headed arguably the most powerful paramilitary force in the world — also a US-designated terror organization — that is now left without a clear successor at a critical juncture. It remains to be seen whether his death will be a trigger for an all-out war between the two sides that could potentially drag in Iran and the United States.

Hezbollah's announcement of his death Friday triggered tears and celebrations across the Arab world
PHOTO: PTI

Here are some things to know about the situation:

Is it a decapitating blow?

Nasrallah's assassination is a severe blow to the group, not a decapitating one. But analysts say Hezbollah will need some time to absorb the shock and recover.

It is not the first time Israel has killed a Hezbollah leader. Nasrallah took over from Abbas Mousawi, who was killed by an Israeli helicopter attack in 1992.

It has become the chief part of a cluster of Iranian-backed factions and governments of the self-named "Axis of Resistance."

Iran's dilemma

In his first remarks Saturday following Nasrallah's death, Iran's supreme leader gave no indication of how Tehran will respond.

Iran is the main backer of Hezbollah and other anti-Israeli militant groups in the region, but it has largely avoided clashing directly with Israel due to domestic considerations.

Hezbollah, however, is Iran's chief ally and proxy group, and Tehran may have to respond to retain its credibility with its partners in the axis.

"Iran is very much in a policy dilemma right now," said Firas Maksad, of the Middle East Institute. On one hand, clearly it very much has wanted to avoid an all-out and direct confrontation, given its long-standing preference for asymmetric warfare and using proxies.

Any direct Iranian involvement risks dragging Israel's chief ally, the U.S., into the war, just over a month before the U.S. elections and at a time Iran has signaled its interest in renewing negotiations with the U.S. over its nuclear program.

Maksad said one possible scenario is a coordinated response from the entire axis. Whether that will be coupled with a direct response from Iran itself is an open question.

Who will succeed Nasrallah?

There is no one nearly as influential and respected among the group's remaining leadership as Nasrallah.

The man widely regarded as his heir is Hashem Safieddine, a cousin of Nasrallah who oversees the group's political affairs. It is not known if he survived Friday's attack, and the Hezbollah statement announcing Nasrallah's death Friday made no mention of a successor.

Explosives hidden in the group's pagers and walkie-talkies killed dozens of people and wounded thousands — many of them Hezbollah members. Israel has also rained down missiles on residential areas where the group has a strong presence, killing hundreds and displacing tens of thousands of people.

Nasrallah was regarded by supporters as a charismatic and shrewd leader. Despite being a divisive figure, he is credited with pushing Israeli forces from south Lebanon in 2000 following an 18-year occupation, as well as transforming the organization from a local militia to a major political player in Lebanon and a top armed force in the region.

He held tremendous sway over the group and the country's Shiite community.

Orna Mizrahi, a senior researcher at the Tel Aviv-based think tank Institute for National Security Studies, noted that Nasrallah was sometimes a "voice of reason" who was interested in engaging Israel in a war of attrition, holding the militant group back from using the full force of their formidable arsenal against Israel.

Growing tensions in Lebanon

Any new Hezbollah leader will also have to contend with rising resentment and frustration among a significant section of the Lebanese population. For years, critics say, Hezbollah deprived Lebanon of its sovereignty by behaving as a state within a state and making unilateral decisions involving war and peace.

Many Christians and Sunnis, as well as a portion of the Shiite community, are opposed to the war and what they regard as Nasrallah's unilateral decision to attack Israel in support of the Gaza front on 8 October, a day after the Hamas attack on Israel that ignited the war in Palestinian territory.

Tensions are extremely high in tiny Lebanon, which is already drowning under the force of an economic meltdown and multiple other crises. A humanitarian crisis has rapidly unfolded with tens of thousands of people displaced, many of them sleeping in parks and makeshift shelters. Dozens of schools designated as sheltered became full within days.

The country is bankrupt and has been without a president and functioning government for two years. In the void, sectarian tensions and frustrations within the country could spiral into armed violence.

Maha Yahya, director of the Beirut-based Carnegie Middle East Center, said Hezbollah now has to contend with all of that as it struggles to regroup.

"And it will have to be more accommodating to Lebanon's other political parties and communities," she said. *—PTI*

SALAR

Chandrayaan-3 landed on oldest craters of Moon

India's lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 possibly landed in one of the oldest craters of the Moon, according to scientists who analysed images from the mission and satellites.

The crater was formed during the Nectarian period, which dates back to 3.85 billion years and is one of the oldest time periods in the Moon's history, the team, including researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Ahmedabad, said.

S Vijayan, an associate professor in the Planetary Sciences Division, Physical Research Laboratory, told PTI, "Chandrayaan-3 landing site is a unique geological setting where no other missions have gone. The images from the mission's Pragyan rover are the first on-site ones of the Moon at this latitude. They reveal how the Moon evolved over time".

A crater is formed when an asteroid crashes into the surface of a larger body like a planet or a Moon, and the displaced material is called 'ejecta'.

Revealing how the Moon evolved over time, the images showed that one half of the crater was buried under material thrown out or 'ejecta' from the South Pole-Aitken basin -- the largest and most known impact basin on the Moon, the researchers said.

An impact basin is a large, complex crater with diameter over 300 km, while a crater measures under 300 km in diameter.

Forming of ejecta is "similar to when you throw a ball on sand and some of it gets displaced or thrown outwards into a small pile," explained Vijayan, who is the corresponding author on the study that appeared in the journal Icarus.

A crater is formed when an asteroid crashes into the surface of a larger body like a planet or a Moon
PHOTO: NASA

"When an impact basin is forming, surface material will be thrown out. If the diameter of the impact basin is larger, sub-surface materials from greater depths will be excavated," Vijayan said.

In this case, Chandrayaan-3 was found to have landed within a crater -- about 160 km in diameter -- and detected in the images as a nearly semi-circular structure.

The researchers said this likely indicated one half of the crater, the other half of which was 'degraded' by getting buried under ejecta from the South Pole-Aitken basin.

"Further, near the landing site, ejecta or material 'thrown out' from another impact crater further away was observed -- images captured by the Pragyan rover revealed that material of the same nature was present at the landing site," Vijayan said.

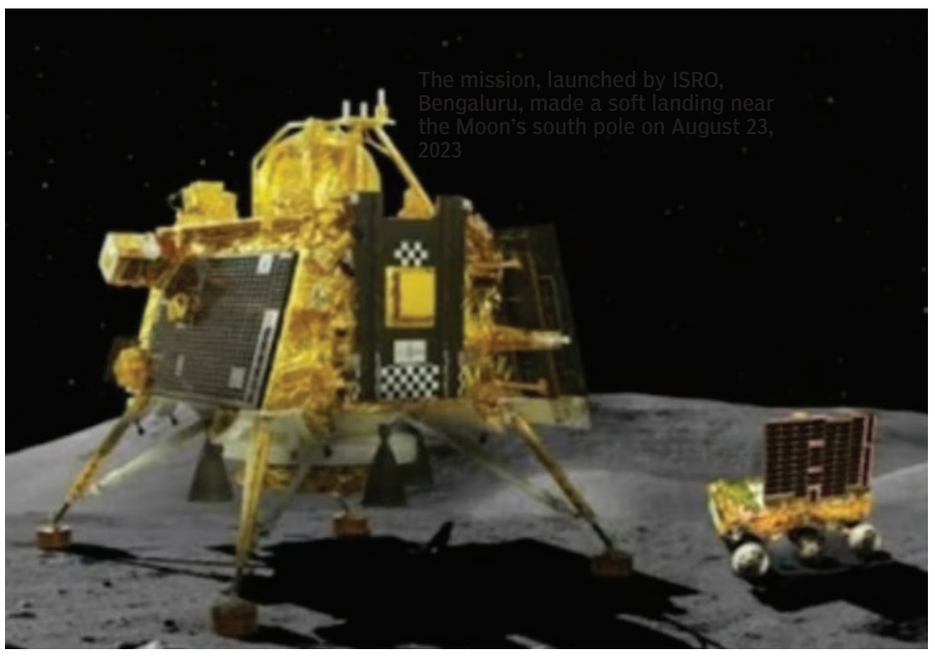
The Pragyan rover was deployed on the lunar surface by the Vikram lander, on-board the Chandrayaan-3.

"Together, the images from the mission and satellites showed that the Chandrayaan-3 landing site consists of material deposited from different regions of the Moon," he said.

The mission, launched by ISRO, Bengaluru, made a soft landing near the Moon's south pole on August 23, 2023. The landing site was christened the Shiv Shakti Point on August, 2023.

For validating their results, the researchers also observed other craters formed during the Nectarian period and found that most of them were severely degraded and modified -- a finding that "substantiates our discovery of a buried crater."

The finding is also an indication of the weathering effects due to exposure to space, or 'space weathering,' they said. *—PTI*



Lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 launched by ISRO, Bengaluru, made a soft landing near the Moon's south pole on 23 August, 2023
PHOTO: NASA

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Children learn to cooperate early, but world leaders at UN struggle

Though many larger nations embraced multilateralism and still do to a point, depending on their own strategic priorities, it is smaller states that embrace it most fervently
PHOTO: PTI

Our children are told when they're little: Play nicely. Work together. Don't hit. Use your words. Multiply that by nearly 200 countries, leaders of varied backgrounds and a preposterously complex set of 21st-century priorities and goals, and you come up with what exists in the world today: the United Nations.

There, the word for "play nicely" and "work together" is a complex one — "multilateralism" — and its goals often get lost in its syllables. But the principle remains the same: Unite to get more done, unite to offset bullies, unite to find outcomes that all can endorse and that benefit as many of the planet's human beings as possible — and can be the foundation for eventual lasting world peace.

At the UN General Assembly this week, it's a principle that leaders — and, not surprisingly, leaders of smaller nations most of all — mention constantly. That's not just because the UN has stood for multilateralism since it rose from the dictator-inflicted rubble of World War II. It is because today, in an interconnected era where human fates lie more than ever in what other humans do in other places, cooperation isn't just an ideal but a necessary reality, whether anyone wants it or not.

But the problem, many leaders say, is that despite the hope that the UN still offers, the aging model of multilateralism — "a mirror that obstinately reflects the values of 1945," according to Mexican Foreign Minister Alicia Bárcena — hasn't been retooled to be effective in an era it quite possibly never envisioned.

The old model isn't working anymore

Both of those nations are small ones, and that's no coincidence. Though many larger nations embraced multilateralism and still do — to a point, depending on their own strategic priorities — it is smaller states that embrace it most fervently. After all, they stand to benefit most from a united front in everything from military operations to development. "For small states, multilateralism in international law is not an option. It is in fact an existential necessity," Singapore's foreign minister, Vivian Balakrishnan, said Saturday.

Four generations after World War II ended, the challenges of the 21st century and — of late — the rising tide of populism have led many to conclude that old models of multilateralism aren't working. But even leaders who still believe that working together and equally is ultimately the most effective and most secure way to do things lamented, one after another, that they are still waiting for the emergence of a fresh approach.

António Guterres, head of the United Nations for the past seven years, has spent most of that time preaching passionately about the virtues of multilateralism — first patiently, then less so, then more urgently, now increasingly desperately. He knows things aren't working. He believes they still can — not in spite of an increasingly complex world but precisely because of its realities.

Fragmentation. That's a key word here. The rise of the internet and the global economy and the subsequent repercussions stitched things together in some ways but tore them into a million pieces in others. Long-prevailing narratives are crumbling — for good and for ill. Putting the pieces back into a recognisable and productive mosaic — the core job of the United Nations — is a Sisyphean task.

This is where most conversations about multilateralism tend to end up. The very things that make it strong — many voices, many backgrounds, diverse priorities — also make it, and the United Nations itself, almost impossible to wrangle.

That has a particularly strong impact on those smaller states, which need that collaboration desperately in the face of larger, more muscular ones.

Increasingly beleaguered Tuvalu can't solve the encroaching waters of climate change on its own. Saint Kitts and Nevis isn't going to figure out all the impact of AI alone. Without a thriving international economy, there are a lot more problems that descend upon everywhere from Kazakhstan to Suriname to Eswatini. African nations in particular have been seeking a permanent seat on the powerful UN Security Council so they can have a strong bloc of cooperation — and power — within the larger one.

New approaches — and fast — are seen as pivotal

Because of the wide perception that multilateralism is at a breaking point, Guterres this year convened a summit that produced a "Pact for the Future," a wide-ranging plan that the secretary-general said was "designed to bring multilateralism back from the brink."

He insisted that, unlike many other U.N. initiatives, this one must be more than talk and documents but must produce tangible, collaborative results in coming years. Essentially, it resembles a soft reboot of the United Nations itself to make it more relevant in an age of globalization, interconnectivity, fragmentation and artificial intelligence.

Could the "great powers" ever accept this? Could a reset, even a limited one, of the only truly global body of nations push the UN back on the path it has long envisioned? Everyone, including Guterres, insists that it's possible — but that time for a new and reinvigorated multilateralism is running out.

The founders recognised that humans wouldn't always play nicely — but that they had to work together. And, ideally, not hit each other. And using their words? Even in a forum committed to dialogue and understanding (not to mention long equipped with real-time translation), that is becoming a taller order with each passing year.. *—PTI*

PHOTO: WHO

Pakistan reports three new Mpox cases

KARACHI, 29 SEPT

Three passengers who arrived from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan's Karachi airport exhibited symptoms of monkeypox during medical screening, ARY News reported on Sunday, quoting Karachi airport sources. On 20 September, a new suspected case of Mpox was reported at Jinnah International Airport morning when a passenger was admitted to a hospital for further evaluation. Sources indicate that the patient, a 26-year-old man from Abbottabad who arrived from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia was flagged for suspected Mpox during a health screening upon his arrival at the airport, Dawn reported. Earlier this month, on 15 September, authorities at Jinnah International Airport reported another suspected case of monkeypox. *—ANI*

Pak reports 61 dengue cases in last 24 hours

RAWALPINDI, 29 SEPT

Pakistan's Rawalpindi reported a hike in dengue cases with 61 cases being confirmed in the last 24 hours, as per ARY News. The total number of dengue cases has spiked to 1,172, with five deaths reported so far, ARY News reported. Earlier on Tuesday, a significant surge in dengue cases was observed as 58 new patients were admitted to three government hospitals in Rawalpindi, increasing the total number of cases this season to 779. The majority of the newly admitted patients hail from various localities such as Chak Jalaldin, Lakkhan, Gulistan Colony, Lane 4 Peshawar Road, Chaklala Scheme-III, Chaudhry Bostan Khan Road, Khanna Dak, Asghar Mall Scheme, Jamia Masjid Road, Dhoke Dalal, Pirwadhai Mor, Morah Noori, and Takhat Pari. *—ANI*

At least 6 killed, 10 injured in twin blasts in Somalia

MOGADISHU, 29 SEPT

Twin bomb blasts rocked Mogadishu and the Middle Shabelle region of Somalia on Saturday. As per police reports, at least six people lost their lives and 10 others were injured in the deadly explosions, according to a report by Voice of America. The blasts occurred in two separate locations - one near the National Theatre in Mogadishu, about a kilometre from the president's office, and another in a livestock market in Jowhar city. A tragedy also struck Jowhar city in Somalia's Middle Shabelle region when a bomb detonated at a livestock market, claiming the life of one civilian and leaving three others injured, Jowhar police Commander Bashir Hassan said. *—ANI*

US couple accused of trying to sell baby for $1,000

ARKANSAS, 29 SEPT

A couple from Northwest Arkansas has been accused of attempting to sell their baby boy for USD1,000 and beer, according to court documents. The alleged incident took place at a campground in Rogers, where Darien Urban, 21, and Shalene Ehlers, along with their baby, had been living for about three months. As of Thursday, the condition of the baby was not immediately known. According to an affidavit obtained by USA TODAY, deputies were called to the Beaver Lake Hide Away Campground on 21 September after someone from the manager's office reported that the couple was trying to trade their baby for money and beer. The caller also mentioned that the child appeared to need medical attention due to rashes and blisters observed around his buttocks and genitals. *—Agencies*

ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE IN LEBANON KILLS 11

Thousands gathered across Iran to protest the killing of Hezbollah leader Nasrallah

JERUSALEM, 29 SEPT

An Israeli airstrike on northeast Lebanon killed 11 people Sunday morning, a day after the death of Nasrallah.The Israeli army says it's carrying out attacks on Hezbollah targets in Lebanon.

The number of those displaced by the conflict from southern Lebanon has more than doubled and now stands at more than 211,000, according to the United Nations.

Hezbollah and Israel have traded near-daily strikes since the Israel-Hama s war started after the Palestinian militant group stormed into Israel on 7 October, sparking fears of regional war.

Thousands of people gathered across Iran to protest the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in an Israeli airstrike.

State TV aired footage of protests in several major cities on Sunday. At Iran's parliament, lawmakers chanted "Death to America" and "Death to Israel."

A man walks on rubble at the site of an Israeli airstrike in Beirut's southern suburbs, Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

In its first statement since the recent escalation with Israel and following the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, Lebanon's military called for calm among the Lebanese "at this dangerous and delicate stage."

Government officials fear that the country's deep political divisions at a time of war could rekindle violence.

"The Israeli enemy is working to implement its destructive plans and spread division among the Lebanese," the military said.

Military vehicles have been deployed in different parts of the capital as thousands of displaced people continue moving from the south to Beirut.

Jordan's military says a Grad missile fired from Lebanon fell in an open area without causing casualties or damage. The missile was likely fired at Israel by Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group, which has intensified its rocket attacks after its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in an Israeli airstrike on Friday.

Jordan and Israel, which share borders, signed a peace treaty in 1994. The Western-allied Arab country also helped intercept missiles fired at Israel by Iran in April. Jordan has been fiercely critical of Israel's policies toward the Palestinians and has repeatedly called for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Egypt's president warned that Israeli military operations in the Palestinian territories and Lebanon are pushing the region to the brink and called for international action. *—PTI*

China urges Israel to de-escalate after strikes

BEIJING, 29 SEPT

China on Sunday called on "parties concerned, especially Israel", to immediately take actions to cool down tensions to prevent the conflict in West Asia from going out of control in the aftermath of the killing of Iran-backed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Israeli bombing.

"China is closely following the incident and is deeply concerned over the escalation of tensions in the region," a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said. China also issued an advisory asking citizens not to travel to Lebanon due to the intensification of the conflict. "China opposes the infringement on Lebanon's sovereignty and security, opposes and condemns any action against innocent civilians, and opposes any move that fuels antagonism and escalates regional tensions," the Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said. "China urges parties concerned, especially Israel, to immediately take actions to cool down the situation and prevent the conflict from escalating or even spiralling out of control," it said, without directly referring to Nasrallah's killing, regarded as a major setback to Iran, the main backer of the Hezbollah.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who said Nasrallah's death "will not go unavenged" has been shifted to a secure location.

In recent years, China has stepped in its diplomatic engagement in the Middle East to counter US influence. Last year, Beijing managed to bring about a landmark peace deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia. *—PTI*

NATURE'S FURY

148 people killed in Nepal floods

A flood-affected area following heavy rainfall, in Kathmandu, Nepal, on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

KATHMANDU, 29 SEPT

The death toll from rain-triggered floodings and landslides across Nepal climbed to 148 on Sunday, police said.

Large swathes of eastern and central Nepal have been inundated since Friday, with flash floods reported in parts of the country.

According to the Armed Police Force sources, 64 people are missing in floods, landslides and inundation, while 61 people have been injured.

The Kathmandu Valley reported the highest number of deaths.

At least 322 houses and 16 bridges were damaged. The security personnel have rescued nearly 3,626 people, the Armed Police Force sources said. The sources added that rescue operations were still underway.

Eyewitnesses said they had never seen such a devastating flood and inundation in the Kathmandu Valley in 40-45 years.

The death toll has reached 125, the Armed Police Force said in a statement.

At least 19 people were killed on Saturday when a bus was buried in a landslide in Dhading district bordering Kathmandu. Five people died when a house collapsed under a landslide in the city of Bhaktapur. Six football players were also killed in a landslide at a training centre operated by the All Nepal Football Association in Makwanpur. Others have been swept up in the floodwaters. *—PTI*

HURRICANE HELENE: 64 DEAD IN US

PERRY, 29 SEPT

Massive rains from powerful Hurricane Helene left people stranded, without shelter and awaiting rescue on Saturday, as the cleanup began from a tempest that killed at least 64 people, caused widespread destruction across the US Southeast and left millions without power.

"I've never seen so many people homeless as what I have right now," said Janalea England, of Steinhatchee, Florida, a small river town along the state's rural Big Bend, as she turned her commercial fish market into a storm donation site for friends and neighbors, many of whom couldn't get insurance on their homes.

Helene blew ashore in Florida's Big Bend region as a Category 4 hurricane late Thursday with winds of 140 mph (225 kph).

President Joe Biden said that Helene's devastation has been "overwhelming" and pledged to send help. *—PTI*

Russia downs 12 Ukrainian drones, sparking wildfire

KYIV, 29 SEPT

More than 100 Ukrainian drones were shot down over Russia on Sunday, officials said, sparking a wildfire and setting an apartment block alight in one of the largest barrages seen over Russian skies since Moscow invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Russia's Ministry of Defence reported that it had shot down 125 drones overnight across seven regions. The southwestern region of Volgograd came under particularly heavy fire, with 67 Ukrainian drones reportedly downed by Russian air defences.

Seventeen drones were also seen over Russia's Voronezh region, where falling debris damaged an apartment block and a private home, said Gov. Aleksandr Gusev. Images on social media showed flames rising from the windows of the top floor of a high-rise building. No casualties were reported.

A further 18 drones were reported over Russia's Rostov region, where falling debris sparked a wildfire, said Governor. Vasily Golubev.

He said that the fire did not pose a threat to populated areas, but that emergency services were fighting to extinguish the blaze, which had engulfed 49.4 acres of forest.

Firefighter put out the fire after Russian attacked in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine on Sunday **PHOTO: X**

Elsewhere, 14 civilians were injured in an overnight barrage on the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia after Ukrainian military leaders warned that Moscow could be preparing for a new military offensive in the country's south. The city was targeted by Russian guide bombs in 10 separate attacks that damaged a high-rise building and several residential homes, Regional Governor Ivan Fedorov wrote on his official Telegram channel.

More people could still be trapped beneath the rubble, he said.

Ukraine's air force also reported that 22 Russian drones were launched over the country overnight. *—PTI*

Setback for UK's Starmer as party MP resigns

LONDON, 29 SEPT

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has suffered his first setback since taking charge at 10 Downing Street in July after one of his members of Parliament resigned from the Labour Party, delivering a scathing attack on his leadership.

Rosie Duffield, MP for Canterbury in Kent, will now sit in the House of Commons as an Independent after her resignation letter published in 'The Sunday Times' attacked the Labour leader's "cruel and unnecessary" policies amid an ongoing expensive free gifts row. Duffield claimed there were many "last straws" that led to her decision to resign, but her main reason to step down this weekend is over the government's programme of unpopular policies.

"They are cruel and unnecessary and affect hundreds of thousands of our poorest, most vulnerable constituents. This is not what I was elected to do. It is not even wise politics, and it certainly is not 'the politics of service'," writes Duffield in her resignation letter.

Indian-origin Labour MP for Nottingham East Nadia Whittome said: "It is deeply disappointing that she has been allowed the privilege of resigning, as she should have lost the whip a long time ago." *—PTI*

POPE WRAPS UP TROUBLED VISIT TO BELGIUM

BRUSSELS, 29 SEPT

Pope Francis wrapped up a troubled visit to Belgium on Sunday with a Mass to beatify a 17th-century mystic, after dashing the hopes of one of Europe's most storied Catholic universities by doubling down on his traditional views on women and abortion.

The main reason for Pope Francis's trip to Belgium was to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the Leuven/Louvain Catholic University, which is considered as the oldest Catholic university in the worldliament-approved bill legalising abortion. *—PTI*

Seven labourers killed by separatist militants in Pak

ISLAMABAD, 29 SEPT

At least seven labourers from the Punjab province were killed by separatist militants in the restive Balochistan province of Pakistan, police said on Sunday.

The labourers from Multan were shot dead late on Saturday night when they were asleep in an under-construction house in the Khuda-e-Abadan area of Panjgur town, Balochistan Inspector General of Police Moazzam Jah Ansari said.

Ansari said the labourers were in deep sleep when the armed terrorists entered the under-construction house and opened indiscriminate fire with automatic weapons.

The official said one of the labourers luckily escaped with an injury while another was not present at the time of the shooting.

The official said an investigation has been opened into the attack. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who immediately condemned the attack, sought a report from Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and reiterated the government's resolve to take all possible measures to root out terrorism from the motherland. President Asif Ali Zardari also condemned the attack. *—PTI*

PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

Austria's Far-Right hopes for its first election win

VIENNA, 29 SEPT

Austria's far-right Freedom Party could win a national election for the first time on Sunday, tapping into voters' anxieties about immigration, inflation, Ukraine and other concerns following recent gains for the hard right elsewhere in Europe. Herbert Kickl, a former interior minister and longtime campaign strategist who has led the Freedom Party since 2021, wants to become Austria's new chancellor. He has used the term "Volkskanzler," or chancellor of the people, which was used by the Nazis to describe Adolf Hitler in the 1930s. He rejected the comparison.

To become new leader, he need a coalition partner to mark a majority in the lower house of parliament. *—PTI*

MARINE LIFE IN DANGER

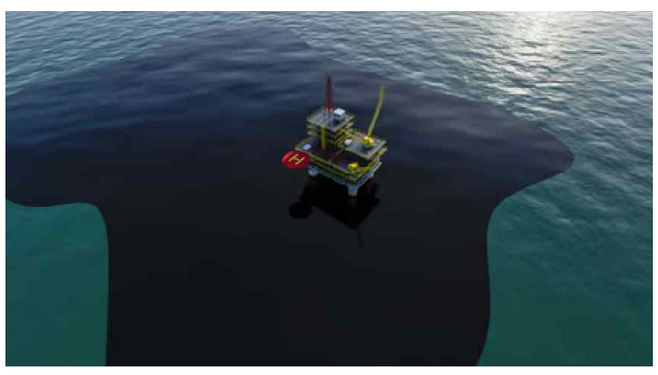
'Oil pollution in N Sea is underestimated'

LONDON, 29 SEPT

Growing up in Aberdeen, Scotland, the shadow of the Piper Alpha disaster loomed large over our community. The tragic explosion of the oil rig platform in 1988 claimed the lives of 167 people. The spill of 670 tonnes of oil wreaked havoc on marine life and had a lasting impact on the marine environment.

In recent decades, there has been a gradual decline in the number of oil spills and the volume of oil discharged from tankers, rigs, wells and offshore platforms.

As a new report, Sea Slick, from marine conservation charity Oceana explains, the extent of frequent, small-scale spills are still being grossly underestimated, even though big oil spills are less frequent.



248 spills from permit breaches took place within the UK's network of marine protected areas between January 2021 and May 2024 **PHOTO: PTI**

Now, companies can apply for oil discharge permits, which allow them to release a set volume or concentration of oil or chemicals into the ocean. Oil and gas companies are regularly breaching their legal produced water permit allowances, Oceana's report claims. Yet, in line with official government reporting requirements, these breaches are not registered as accidental oil spills.

Over time, the incremental release of toxic chemicals has a negative environmental effect. An estimated 248 spills from permit breaches took place within the UK's network of marine protected areas between January 2021 and May 2024. Contaminants associated with chronic oiling have been shown to have a range of effects on marine life.

Oceana's research highlights that oil and gas companies have only been fined on two occasions in the last five years. By regulating and fining oil companies properly for chronically polluting UK seas, the government could enact and make permanent their commitment to end new oil and gas licenses. It's time to take action. *—Courtesy, The Conversation*

Trump hits out at Kamala, calls her 'mentally impaired'

WISCONSIN, 29 SEPT

Former President Donald Trump sought again to link Vice President Kamala Harris to illegal border crossings, speaking in a western river town where he said she could never be forgiven for "erasing our border".

A day after Harris discussed immigration at the US-Mexico border, Trump spoke to a crowd in the Wisconsin town of 5,000 people just across the Mississippi River from Iowa, claiming the Democratic nominee was responsible for migrants who have come into the country illegally and have committed crimes.

"Kamala Harris can never be forgiven for her erasing our border and she must never be allowed to become president of the United States," Trump said. "She's letting in people who are going to walk into your house, break into your door," he said.

Donald Trump **PHOTO: PTI**

Trump is hoping frustration over illegal immigration will translate to votes in Wisconsin and other crucial swing states. The Republican nominee has denounced people who cross the US-Mexico border as "poisoning the blood of the country" and vowed to stage the largest deportation operation in American history if elected.

But Trump also intensified his personal attacks against Harris, insulting her as "mentally impaired". *—PTI*

Govt envoy to visit Mongolia on coal imports talks

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

An Indian delegation, including senior government officials, will leave for Mongolia next month to discuss importing coking coal from the landlocked nation. The move aims at diversifying raw materials sources, and will not only increase the availability of the key steel making material but also help in cost optimisation of producing the commodity. India remains dependent on select group of nations -- largely Australia -- to meet 80-90 per cent of its coking coal requirements. As they are located far, it takes months for cargo ships to transport the raw material to India.

The logistics adds to the overall cost production of steel makers. Imports from Mongolia, which is geographically closer to India, will provide cost benefit to the domestic steel players and improve availability of the raw material. *—PTI*

Govt to invite firms' suggestions on IT Act review

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

The government has proposed to invite suggestions on Income Tax Act, 1961, from the private sector and tax experts beginning October, as part of an exercise to simplify the direct tax law, sources said. In a meeting with industry chambers earlier in September, the government said that a functionality will be created in the Income Tax portal wherein suggestions could be made on different sections of the I-T Act with a view to simplifying the language and reducing litigation. The Central Board of Direct Taxes had set up an internal committee for a comprehensive review of the six- decade old direct tax law and make it easy to read and understand. Another source said that the exercise is not to write a new tax law or a tax code. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in 2024-25 Budget presented in July had proposed that the I-T law review would be completed in six months. *—PTI*

IBA expects ₹1Kcr investment for biogas sector

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

Indian Biogas Association (IBA) is expecting around Rs 1,600 crore investment in the sector during Renewable Energy India Expo (REI) 2024, beginning on Thursday. IBA, the country's leading body representing biogas operators, manufacturers, and plant planners, is optimistic about the opportunities the high-profile event will bring. Talking to PTI, IBA Chairman Gaurav Kedia said, "REI 2024 is expected to see investment announcements of around Rs 1,600 crore in the biogas sector". He stated that the REI Expo 2024 is expected to attract 20 per cent more participation compared to last year. Kedia emphasised the vast untapped potential of the biogas sector. The Bio-Energy Pavilion 2024 is also supported by government ministries and prominent organisations, including the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the National Institute of Bio-Energy, and the World Bioenergy Association.

IPO: Swiggy and others to raise ₹60K cr

Momentum in IPO is by sector-specific factors

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

The primary market will remain abuzz with more than half a dozen companies, including Hyundai Motor India, Swiggy, and NTPC Green Energy, lined up initial public offerings over the next two months to raise around Rs 60,000 crore, merchant bankers said.

Apart from these three firms, Afcons Infrastructure, Waaree Energies, Niva Bupa Health Insurance, One Mobikwik Systems, and Garuda Construction are among the companies planning to launch initial public offerings (IPOs) during October-November, they added.

Together, these firms are looking to raise Rs 60,000 crore through their IPOs.

The strong momentum in IPO markets is driven by several key macroeconomic, sector-specific factors and the willingness of funds to look at new ideas, which is partially led by strong inflows into domestic mutual funds and the robust capital formation happening across corporate India, he added.

The companies are tapping the primary market to raise

The firms are tapping the market to raise funds for expansion *PHOTO: PTI*

funds for expansion plans, retire debt, support working capital requirements and provide exit routes to the existing shareholders.

Hyundai Motor India Ltd, the Indian subsidiary of South Korea's Hyundai Motor Company, is expected to raise Rs 25,000 crore, making it the largest-ever IPO in India.

This could surpass LIC's Rs 21,000-crore initial share sale.

The automaker's entire issue will be an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 14,21,94,700 shares by Hyundai Motor Company, with no fresh issue component, according to its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

Other major IPOs lined up include food and grocery delivery giant Swiggy, which according to sources, is targeting to raise Rs 10,414 crore via fresh issue and OFS.

Swiggy's IPO consists of a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 3,750 crore and an OFS component of 18.52 crore worth Rs 6,664 crore.

Further, NTPC Green Energy, is looking to launch its Rs 10,000 crore IPO in the first week of November, sources told PTI earlier.

Moreover, 62 companies, including Bajaj Housing Finance, Ola Electric Mobility, and FirstCry's parent Brainbees Solutions have already mobilised around Rs 64,000 crore collectively via mainboard, marking a 29 per cent increase from Rs 49,436 crore collected by 57 firms through the route in 2023. *—PTI*

₹780 CR

Reliance Infra wins case against Damodar Corp

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

The Calcutta High Court has upheld a Rs 780 crore arbitration award in favour of Reliance Infrastructure Ltd in a dispute with West Bengal-based Damodar Valley Corporation, the Anil Ambani group firm said in a stock exchange filing.

More than a decade back, Reliance Infrastructure had won a contract to set up a 1,200 MW thermal power plant in Purulia in West Bengal for Rs 3,750 crore.

The project was delayed due to disputes and other reasons, leading to DVC seeking damages from Reliance Infrastructure. Reliance Infrastructure, however, challenged this, and an arbitration tribunal in 2019 ruled in favour of the company and directed DVC to pay Rs 896 crore to the company.

DVC challenged the order in the Calcutta High Court, which was dismissed by the court. The company said the court "with the exception of relief on pre-award interest and reduction in the rate of interest on bank guarantee

PHOTO: PTI

- More than a decade back, Reliance Infrastructure had won a contract to set up a 1,200 MW thermal power plant in Purulia in West Bengal for Rs 3,750 crore

totalling to Rs 181 crore and upheld the (arbitration) award, totalling approximately Rs 780 crore, including accrued interest. In addition, the bank guarantee of Rs 600 crore will also be released". Reliance Infra said it is currently conducting a review of the judgment and "will proceed, based on legal advice, either to enforce the Award to the extent upheld or to challenge the judgment dated 27 September, where it interferes with the Award". *—PTI*

Reliance-Disney merger: Govt okays license TV transfer

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

The government has approved the transfer of licence relating to non-news and current affairs TV channels held by the media entities of billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries to Star India.

According to regulatory filings by Reliance Industries and TV18 Broadcast, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting granted the approval in an order dated 27 September.

"The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, vide its order dated 27 September has granted its approval for transfer of Licenses relating to Non-News & Current Affairs TV channels held by Viacom18 Media Private Limited in favour of Star India," it said.

Both sides are in the final stages of the merger, making some adjustments to the business as per the directions of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). On 30 August, NCLT approved the scheme of merger of Viacom18 Media and Digital 18 Media, holding media and entertainment assets of Reliance Industries, with Star India. The merger of the media assets of Reliance and The Walt Disney Co. will create the country's largest media empire worth over Rs 70,000 crore. *—PTI*

Housing prices in B'luru jumps 29% in July-Sept: Anarock

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

Housing prices in Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru appreciated 29 per cent year-on-year in the July-September quarter on strong demand, high input cost and an increase in the supply of luxury homes, according to Anarock.

Real estate consultant Anarock's data showed that the average prices of residential properties in Delhi-NCR increased 29 per cent to Rs 7,200 per square feet in the July-September quarter from Rs 5,570 per square feet in the year-ago period.

In Bengaluru, the prices grew 29 per cent to Rs 8,100 per square feet in the third quarter of this calendar year from Rs 6,275 per square feet in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Hyderabad saw the maximum 32 per cent rise in prices

PHOTO: PTI

to Rs 7,150 from Rs 5,400 per square feet.

Darshan Govindaraju, Director of Bengaluru-based realty firm Vaishnavi Group, said, "The average increase in residential property prices is a continuation of a trend seen since the last few quarters and is primarily due to increase in input costs, including land acquisition and construction costs, along with the growing weightage of premium and luxury properties in the overall sales bucket". *—PTI*

SURPASSES RS 1K CR MARK

FPI inflow hits 9-month high of ₹57K cr in equities in Sept

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

Foreign investors have poured Rs 57,359 crore into Indian equities in September, making it the highest inflow in nine months, mainly driven by a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve.

With this infusion, foreign portfolio investors' (FPIs) investment in equities has surpassed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark in 2024, data with the depositories showed.

Going ahead, FPI inflows are likely to remain robust, driven by global interest rate easing and India's strong fundamentals. However, the RBI's decisions, particularly regarding inflation management and liquidity, will be key in sustaining this momentum, Robin Arya, smallcase Manager and founder & CEO of research analyst firm GoalFi, said.

PHOTO: PTI

According to the data, FPIs made a net investment of Rs 57,359 crore in equities until 27 September, with one trading session still left this month.

This was the highest net inflow since December 2023, when FPIs had invested Rs 66,135 crore in equities.

Since June, FPIs have consistently bought equities after withdrawing Rs 34,252 crore in April-May. Overall, FPIs have been net buyers in 2024, except for January, April, and May.

The 50-basis points rate cut by the US Fed on 18 September increased the liquidity in the Indian markets since the Indian rupee was aided by currency fluctuations. This interest rate differential is expected to attract more FPI inflows into India, Manoj Purohit, Partner and leader, FS Tax, Tax and Regulatory Services, BDO India, said. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

'GOVT SHOULD PROMOTE LABOUR INTENSIVE FIRMS'

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

With 7 per cent economic growth, India is not creating enough jobs as reflected by the number of applicants for vacant posts in some states, Reserve Bank's former governor **Raghuram Rajan** said and suggested the government needs to focus on promoting labour-intensive industries to generate employment.

Rajan further said some Indians, especially those at upper level, are comfortable and have high incomes, but consumption growth from the lower half of the country has still not recovered to pre-pandemic level.

"That is the unfortunate part...You would think with 7 per cent growth, we would be creating a lot of jobs. But if you look at our manufacturing growth, it is more capital intensive," he said.

According to him, the industries that are more capital-intensive are growing faster, but labour-intensive industries are not growing.

"You can see it in the number of applications for government jobs, which are overwhelming," said Rajan, who is a professor of finance at US-based Chicago Booth.

While welcoming the apprenticeship schemes announced by the finance minister in this year's Budget, Rajan said, "But we have to monitor that very closely, see what works and expand what works much more."

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in the Union Budget of FY25 that the government will launch three employment-linked schemes based on enrolment in Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO). *—PTI*

Mcap of 8 of 10 most valued firms surge ₹1.21L cr

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

The combined market valuation of eight of the top-10 most valued firms surged Rs 1,21,270.83 crore last week, with Reliance Industries becoming the biggest gainer, in line with an outstanding rally in benchmark equity indices.

Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,027.54 points or 1.21 per cent. The BSE Sensex hit its record high of 85,978.25 on Friday.

The market valuation of Reliance Industries jumped Rs 53,652.92 crore to Rs 20,65,197.60 crore.

State Bank of India added Rs 18,518.57 crore taking its valuation to Rs 7,16,333.98 crore. Bharti Airtel's market valuation soared Rs 13,094.52 crore to Rs 9,87,904.63 crore and that of ITC grew by Rs 9,927.3 crore to Rs 6,53,834.72 crore.The market capitalisation (mcap) of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)

PHOTO: PTI

surged Rs 8,592.96 crore to Rs 15,59,052 crore.

HDFC Bank's valuation climbed Rs 8,581.64 crore to Rs 13,37,186.93 crore and that of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) zoomed Rs 8,443.87 crore to Rs 6,47,616.51 crore.The mcap of Infosys went up by Rs 459.05 crore to Rs 7,91,897.44 crore.However, the market valuation of ICICI Bank tumbled Rs 23,706.16 crore to Rs 9,20,520.72 crore.

The mcap of Hindustan Unilever declined by Rs 3,195.44 crore to Rs 6,96,888.77 crore. *—PTI*

Deloitte targets USD 5B revenue by 2030 in India

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

Global accounting firm Deloitte is targeting a 4 times growth in its revenue from India business to USD 5 billion (about Rs 40,000 crore) by 2030 and become an "undisputed leader" in professional services, its South Asia CEO Romal Shetty said. Deloitte's India business revenue touched Rs 10,000 crore mark in 2023-24 fiscal (June 2023-May 2024), a growth of 30 per cent.

Deloitte's aggregate global revenue grew 3.6 per cent to USD 67.2 billion for the fiscal year ended 31 May, 2024.

"We disrupted the marketplace in 2023-24 with Rs 10,000 crore revenue. Our aim is to become the undisputed leader in professional services, distinguished by our quality, brand, well-being, and scale. Success for us is to be a kind-hearted, high performing and innovative firm," Shetty said. *—PTI*

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's with Lulu Group International CEO Yusuffali *PHOTO: PTI*

Lulu Group to set up hypermarkets in Andhra

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

UAE-based Lulu Group International will set up modern food processing and logistic centres in Andhra Pradesh along with hypermarkets and a shopping mall in the state, its Chairman and Managing Director Yusuffali MA said on Sunday.

On X in response to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's post after their meeting, Yusuffali said, "Our discussions were very fruitful."

"We have decided to start an international-standard shopping mall with 8-screen imax multiplex in Vizag, state-of-the-art Hypermarkets in Vijayawada and Tirupati along with modern Food Processing and Logistic Centers in Andhra Pradesh," he wrote. Earlier in a post on X, Naidu updated about his meeting with Yusuffali along with the group's Executive Director Ashraf Ali MA, back to Andhra Pradesh.

Assuring the state government's "every possible cooperation and support", he said, "I wish my friend all the best in his endeavours and look forward to a fruitful partnership for the development of Andhra Pradesh." *—PTI*

SHARPENING FUTURE

'Policy reforms crucial forIndia's pharma R&D'

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

India's regulatory and policy reforms are crucial for shaping the future of pharmaceutical research and development by streamlining approval processes, strengthening IP protections and incentivising innovation, as several policy challenges continue to hinder the growth of R&D in the sector, according to a report.

As the country modernises its regulatory framework and enhances collaboration with global regulatory agencies, India is well-positioned to become a global leader in pharmaceutical innovation, as per the report by Deloitte and industry chamber ASSOCHAM.

It acknowledged that India's pharmaceutical ecosystem is transforming significantly, supported by comprehensive regulatory and policy reforms to foster innovation and growth.

The regulatory framework is being actively enhanced to streamline approval processes, increase transparency and reduce barriers to entry for innovative products.

However, the report said "several policy challenges continue to hinder the growth of India's pharmaceutical R&D sector, such as inadequate capacity for drug regulation, the need for advanced testing facilities and the lack of a strong framework for monitoring quality compliance in manufacturing units".

Major challenge is the high cost of compliance with global standards, affecting small and medium-sized enterprises *PHOTO: PTI*

"Additionally, bureaucratic complexities within the regulatory framework led to extended timelines for drug approvals and clinical trials, making India less attractive for conducting high-quality clinical research," it noted.

Another major challenge is the high cost of compliance with global standards, which can be particularly burdensome for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), the report added.

- It acknowledged that India's pharmaceutical ecosystem is transforming significantly, supported by comprehensive regulatory and policy reforms to foster innovation and growth.

Using its expanding CRO sector, cutting-edge research centres, cost efficiency and diverse patient base, India can position itself as an attractive collaborator for global pharmaceutical companies in these areas, it said. *—PTI*

Rubber prices surge 33% this fiscal, says Crisil

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

Tyre manufacturers are grappling with soaring natural rubber prices, which have surged by over 33 per cent in last five months of fiscal 2025, Crisil said in its recent report.

Stretched supply and rising costs of natural rubber have created a challenging environment for tyre makers, it said.

Natural rubber constitutes 20-40 per cent of weightage in the tyre manufacturing process, depending on the category. The tyre industry accounts for around 80 per cent of natural rubber consumption in the country.

Natural rubber prices, which have remained subdued for much of the past decade, has now breached the Rs 200 per kilogramme mark. The situation recalls the price surge last seen in 2011, when prices hit all-time highs after the global financial crisis.

PHOTO: PTI

According to the report, the current surge in natural rubber prices is primarily driven by demand outstripping global production capacity. Between fiscals 2011 and 2023, global natural rubber production grew by 35 per cent, while demand surged by 40 per cent. *—ANII*

Sri Lanka crush NZ to clinch historic series win

This victory marks their first win against NZ in 15 years

GALLE, 29 SEPT

Sri Lanka stormed to a series victory over New Zealand, securing the two-match test series with a resounding innings and 154-run triumph on the fourth day in Galle on Sunday.

This victory, Sri Lanka's most dominant over the Kiwis, also marks their first win against New Zealand in 15 years. The hero of the games, left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya, was named Player of the Series after a masterful performance, claiming 18 wickets across the two matches. Meanwhile, Kamindu Mendis took home Man of the Match honors for his unbeaten 182, anchoring Sri Lanka's colossal total of 602-5 declared.

With this knock, Mendis etched his name in history, joining the great Sir Don Bradman as the third joint-fastest player to reach 1,000 test runs.

Sri Lankan players celebrate their victory PHOTO: PTI

Jayasuriya, who took nine wickets in the first test, was at his best again, snaring another nine wickets in the second test as New Zealand's batters struggled to cope with Sri Lanka's spin-heavy attack. Debutant Nishan Peiris was the perfect foil, chipping in with nine wickets of his own, including a five-wicket haul in the second innings.

New Zealand's woes began early, bundled out for a paltry 88 in their first innings. Forced to follow on, the Kiwis showed more fight in their second innings, posting 360 – their highest total of the tour and in Galle – but it was too little, too late.

Tom Blundell, Glenn Phillips, and Mitchell Santner all contributed half-centuries in the second innings, but the tourists needed far more to challenge Sri Lanka's dominance. Resuming at 199-5, New Zealand lost three wickets before lunch on the fourth day. Despite Sri Lanka's fielding lapses, which saw three catches dropped, they eventually cleaned up after lunch. Jayasuriya removed Ajaz Patel and Peiris took the final scalp of Santner, stumped by Kusal Mendis, sealing the series win for Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka 602 for 5 dec (Kamindu 182, Chandimal 116, Kusal 106*, Mathews 88, Phillips 3-141) beat New Zealand 88 (Jayasuriya 6-42, Peiris 3-33) and 360 (Phillips 78, Santner 67, Conway 61, Blundell 60, Peiris 6-170, Jayasuriya 3-139) by an innings and 154 runs.

—PTI

JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Indian shooters win two team gold medals at Peru

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPT

Indian shooters began their ISSF Junior World Championship (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) campaign in Peru on a good note, winning team gold in men's and women's 10m air pistol events, though a potential top-podium finish was lost in the individual category after a marksman was docked two points for reporting late for the final.

The junior men's trio of Umesh Choudhary, Pradhyumn Singh, and Mukesh Nelavalli topped the men's team competition in the 10m air pistol with a tally of 1726 points. They finished 10 points ahead of second-placed Romania, while Italy took bronze with a score of 1707.

Choudhary though missed a potential individual gold after being penalized two points for reporting late for the final.

Choudhary and Singh had earlier made it to the individual finals placed third and fourth respectively in the qualification round. Choudhary shot 580 and Singh 578 but missed out on individual medals, ending up sixth and eighth respectively.

The Indian junior shooting team has made the nation proud by clinching medals at Junior World Championship PHOTO: X

Luca Joldea of Romania won the gold medal, while Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Hsiang-Chen clinched the silver. Nelavalli was ninth in qualification with a score of 574. The combination of Kanishka Dagar, Lakshita, and Anjali Chaudhary tallied 1708 to clinch the junior women's 10m air pistol team gold. They pipped Azerbaijan by a point and bronze-winning Ukraine by four points. Dagar also made the individual final in third place with a score of 573 along with Kanak who also shot the same score but with lesser inner 10s, to bag the fifth qualifying spot. In the final, Kanak won bronze with a score of 217.6, while Dagar finished eighth. *—PTI*

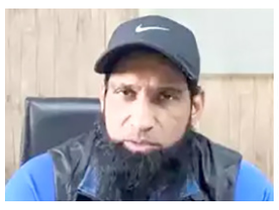


PHOTO: PTI

Yousuf resigns as national selector over personal reason

LAHORE, 29 SEP

Former Pakistan captain Muhammad Yousuf stepped down as a national selector on Sunday, citing personal reasons. "I announce my resignation as a selector for the Pakistan cricket team due to personal reasons. Serving this incredible team has been a profound privilege, and I am proud to have contributed to the growth and success of Pakistan Cricket," he wrote on 'X'. "I have immense faith in the talent and spirit of our players, and Wish our team all the best as they continue to strive for greatness." Yousuf, who has been attached to the Pakistan Cricket Board in different roles since last year, was part of a broad-based national selection committee that includes two former Test players, head coaches, captains, and an analyst among others.*—PTI*

Bayern says Kane's ankle injury is not as bad as feared

MUNICH, 29 SEPT

Bayern Munich star Harry Kane's left ankle injury is not as serious as initially feared, the Bundesliga club said. "Examinations by the club's medical unit on Sunday determined a positive development," the Bavarian powerhouse said. "Kane will continue to receive appropriate treatment." The club did not say whether Kane will be fit for Bayern's visit to Aston Villa in the Champions League on Wednesday. The 31-year-old forward limped off the field late in Bayern's 1-1 draw with Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga on Saturday after getting a knock to the ankle in a tussle for the ball with Leverkusen's Amine.*—PTI*

Edwin Sydney Vanspaul returns to Chennaiyin FC

CHENNAI, 29 SEPT

Chennaiyin FC head coach Owen Coyle on Sunday announced the signing of Tamil Nadu-born defender Edwin Sydney Vanspaul for the ISL 2024-25 season with the right-back becoming the team's 14th signing. The 32-year-old is set for a homecoming at the Marina Arena, having previously represented the team during four seasons from 2019-2023. Primarily a right-back, Edwin joins a strong defensive unit led by the likes of Ryan Edwards, Mandar Rao Desai, and PC Laldinpuia. He is also familiar with Coyle, having previously played under the Scotsman during his first stint. Coyle, welcoming Edwin back to the Marina Arena during a press conference.*—PTI*

Pegula continues late-season charge at China Open

DUABI, 29 SEPT

Third-ranked Jessica Pegula responded to losing a marathon first set to rally for a 6-7 (9), 6-1, 6-2 win over Veronika Kudermetova in the third round of the China Open on Sunday.

Pegula has won 17 of her last 19 matches, including defending her title in Toronto and making finals at Cincinnati and the U.S. Open, where her only defeats have come to Aryna Sabalenka, the top-seeded player in Beijing.

The American made three service breaks in the first set, but also lost three of her own, with Kudermetova prevailing in a lung-busting 20-point tie-breaker to take the lead.

The loss of the tiebreaker seemed to spur Pegula to life as she found her groundstroke range to break her Russian opponent's serve twice in each set to take the match in just over two-and-a-half hours.

It was Pegula's first win against the 39th-ranked Kudermetova in three attempts.Pegula will play the 15th-seeded Paola Badosa in the fourth round after the Spaniard beat Serbian Rebecca Sramkova 7-5, 7-5.Poland's Magdalena Frech, seeded 23rd, overcame a disastrous start to rally to a three-set win over 12th-seeded Diana Shnaider 0-6, 6-3, 6-4 and next faces the 595th-ranked wildcard Zhang Shuai, who beat Greet Minnen of Belgium 6-2, 6-3. *—PTI*

AGM: DT likely to return to zonal format from next season

BENGALURU, 29 SEPT

The Duleep Trophy is set to return to its traditional zonal from next year after the state units gave a thumbs down to the four-team concept introduced this season. The red-ball event featured four teams India A, India B, India C, and India D.

India A beat India C to win the competition earlier this month.Usually, six teams from as many zones -- central, east, west, north, south, and northeast -- take part in the tournament, providing more opportunities to the players from their respective zones."The state units felt the format used this season did not give a fair representation to the players from their respective zones.

The traditional zonal format gives players more opportunities zone-wise and that is what was conveyed in the AGM today," a state unit official told PTI after the BCCI AGM in Bengaluru.

Duleep Trophy PHOTO: PTI

The BCCI rebranded the Duleep Trophy this season and the tournament attracted plenty of eyeballs with some star Indian players being part of the first round. Rishabh Pant marked his red-ball comeback in this tournament scoring a confidence-boosting half-century.

Shubman Gill captained the India A side in the opening round before handing over the leadership duties to Mayank Agarwal to join the India Test squad for the ongoing series against Bangladesh.Openers Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sarfaraz Khan, Akash Deep, Kuldeep Yadav, K L Rahul, and Dhruv Jurel were the Indian players who were part of the tournament.

Akash's splendid effort in the opening round helped him retain his place in the India squad while it also gave opportunities to the next line of cricketers to make an impact ahead of a busy Test season.Left-arm pacer Yash Dayal too was picked for the Tests after an impressive outing in the Duleep Trophy.Shreyas Iyer, who dropped for the Bangladesh series, captained India D, and Ruturaj Gaikwad, who is yet to play Test cricket, led India C. Ishan Kishan, who like Iyer lost his central contract for not following BCCI's directive to play domestic cricket, made a memorable comeback with a fine hundred.

—PTI

Shubhankar Sharma PHOTO: X

Shubhankar Sharma moves up to T-44 in Spain

MADRID, 29 SEPT

India's Shubhankar Sharma compiled an interesting round of two-under 69 that included two eagles as he moved up from T-57 to T-44 with one more round to go in the Acciona Open de España presented by Madrid.

Sharma had two eagles, two birdies, and four bogeys in the third round and this week he had landed three eagles – he had one in the first round – but has also dropped two doubles and two bogeys each on the first two days and four on the third.

At even par for 54 holes, he is T-44.Angel Hidalgo will take a two-shot lead into the final round after producing a 68 on day three at Club de Campo Villa de Madrid.

The home favorite has led the way since carding an opening 65 in the Spanish capital and produced a confident display of front-running to get to 13 under after 54 holes.

Hidalgo is still looking for a maiden win on the DP World Tour and will be paired in an all-Spanish final group tomorrow alongside two-time Major Champion Jon Rahm and compatriot David Puig.

—PTI

Liam Delap scored twice as Ipswich Town drew 2-2 with Aston Villa in Sunday's Premier League contest at Portman Road PHOTO: @AVFCOFFICIAL

Delap dazzles to put Ipswich level v/s Villa

LONDON, 29 SEPT

Ipswich Town drew 2-2 with Aston Villa in the Premier League on Sunday at Portman Road where Liam Delap opened the scoring for the home side before grabbing the equaliser in the second half.

Ipswich took an early lead when Jack Clarke cut the ball back for Delap to beat Emi Martinez in goal but Villa leveled seven minutes later when Morgan Rogers pounced on a poor clearance and made it 1-1.

Ollie Watkins gave Villa the lead when he headed home a Leon Bailey cross but Ipswich struck again through Delap when he beat the offside trap on a counter-attack and found the bottom corner after 72 minutes to set up a tense finale.

Neither side could find a winner, however, as Villa failed to move into the top four, sitting fifth with 13 points, while Ipswich are 15th with four points as the promoted side continue to wait for a first win on their return to the Premier League.

The forward produced an exhilarating, high-octane performance, leading the line to great effect. Took his goals with real panache and was only denied a hat-trick by a stunning one-on-one save by Emi Martinez.

Both sides were forcing the issue in the latter stages, but neither could find a third, with the points being shared at the end of an entertaining contest in England's top flight.

Villa remain fifth in the Premier League table but have moved onto 13 points, two points behind leaders Liverpool, while Ipswich have risen into 15th, with Kieran McKenna's side now on four points in England's top flight this term. *—AP*

3rd day of Kanpur Test called off despite no rain

KANPUR, 29 SEPT

For the second consecutive day, there was no play in the second Test between India and Bangladesh in Kanpur.

Unlike Saturday, there was not a single drop of rain today but a wet outfield resulted in play being called off at 2 pm. Ironically, as soon as the umpires made that decision, the sun emerged from behind the clouds.After three days, Bangladesh are 107 for 3 in the first innings of the Test. There are still two more days left but the chances of a result have reduced drastically.

The day started with the covers being removed from the outfield, with an inspection scheduled for 10 am. They planned the next inspection at noon. But things hardly improved. *—PTI*

PRESIDENTS CUP

Scottie puts Americans back in control

MONTREAL, 29 SEPT

Patrick Cantlay couldn't have hit the putt he might not have seen the hole without lights from a video board and the headlamps from golf carts surrounding the 18th green in the final match of the longest day at the Presidents Cup.

And then he delivered another "Patty Ice" moment that might have been enough to turn the lights out on the International team on Saturday. Scottie Scheffler delivered big moments late in both of his matches, and Cantlay's putt from just inside 17 feet in the dark gave the Americans another win, another point, moving them one session closer to another Presidents Cup victory.

Scottie and Patrick PHOTO: X

They won the fourball and foursomes sessions by a 3-1 margin. Cantlay and Xander Schauffele won on the 18th over Tom Kim and Si Wood Kim, the high-charged South Korean duo, that gave the Americans an 11-7 lead at Royal Montreal.

Tom Kim said he could hear some American players cursing at them, though it wasn't corroborated and Schauffele said he didn't know to what the 22-year-old was referring. Most of the matches have been tight all week.

The crowd has been loud. It has gotten chippy at times, expected in these team competitions.

—PTI

NEW JERSEY TO HOST FINAL

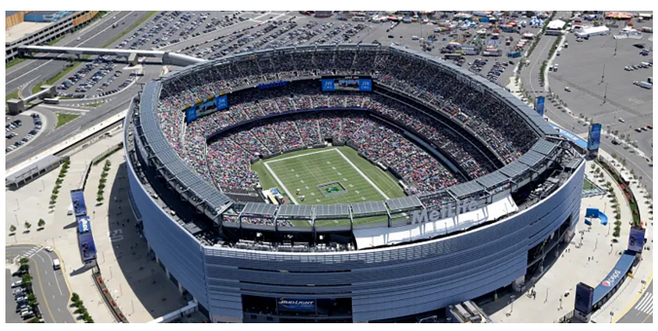
FIFA names Club WC 2025 venues

LONDON, 29 SEPT

The 2025 FIFA Club World Cup final will be held in New Jersey, home of the NFL's New York Giants and New York Jets, the world football's governing body has announced.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino announced the venue lineup for the revamped tournament on Saturday.

The expanded 32-team tournament, which will feature leading clubs from around the world, will be held around the United States from 15 June to 13 July. A total of 12 venues will be used for the tournament with only two of them on the West Coast – the Rose Bowl in Pasadena near Los Angeles and Lumen Field in Seattle.



The 82,500-capacity MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey will host the final of the FIFA Club World Cup 2025 PHOTO: @FIFAWORLDCUP

The tournament is taking place at the same time as the regional CONCACAF Gold Cup which will be held mainly on the West Coast.

The open-air stadium for the final, which opened in 2010 and has a capacity of 82,500, held the Copa America Centenario final in 2016 when Chile denied Lionel Messi's Argentina for a second time in a penalty shootout. It will also host the FIFA World Cup 2026 final.

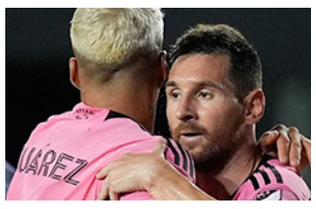
The other venues that will host games are Mercedes-Benz Stadium (Atlanta), Bank of America Stadium (Charlotte), TQL Stadium (Cincinnati), Hard Rock Stadium (Miami), GEODIS Park (Nashville), Camping World Stadium (Orlando), Inter&Co Stadium (Orlando), Lincoln Financial Field (Philadelphia) and Audi Field (Washington, DC). *—PTI*

Lionel Messi scores 15th goal in 16 league

DUABI, 29 SEPT

Lionel Messi moved Inter Miami another step closer to the No. 1 seed for the MLS Cup playoffs and the MLS single-season points record remains in the club's reach as well. Messi scored in the 67th minute and Inter Miami pushed its unbeaten streak to eight straight Major League Soccer matches with a 1-1 tie against Charlotte FC on Saturday night. It was Messi's 15th goal in 16 league matches this season.

Messi became the sixth player in MLS history with at least 15 goals and 15 assists in a single season and he's done that while missing 15 of Inter Miami's league contests. The tie, combined with Columbus' 2-2 draw with D.C. United on Saturday, left Inter Miami eight points clear of the Crew for the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference. Inter Miami is also seven points up on the LA Galaxy for the No. 1 overall seed in the MLS playoffs. *—PTI*



Lionel Messi PHOTO: @LEOMESSI